



Official who oversaw migrant kids: Separation causes trauma

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Health and Human Services official responsible for helping to reunite families separated by the Trump administration said Thursday he had warned colleagues that separating children from their parents would cause lasting, serious psychological trauma. Commander Jonathan White of the U.S. Public Health Service testified before a House subcommittee looking into the "zero-tolerance policy" last April that resulted in the separation of more than 2,700 children.

DAMAGE DONE



U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Commander Jonathan White testifies during the House Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

Continued on Page 2

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Official who oversaw migrant kids: Separation causes trauma

Continued from FDront

He served as the deputy director for the office that oversees migrant children, and was brought back from another post to oversee reunification efforts.

The hearing reflected the priorities of newly empowered Democrats who took control of the House in January. Democrats were sharply critical of President Donald Trump's family separation policy and though the policy has ended, they continue to press for answers about how it came to be.

"There is no evidence that HHS leaders ever tried to stop this abhorrent policy," said subcommittee leader Diana DeGette, a Colorado Democrat. "As the

agency dedicated to the health and welfare of children, we need to know why."

White said he attended briefings on the possibility of separating children in 2017, but was told there was no policy in place. He said he learned of the zero tolerance policy from a news conference given by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

White said he was not aware that anyone the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services knew the policy was coming. White led the HHS effort to reunify children with their parents. The department made White available to the committee after HHS Secretary Alex Azar chose not to attend.



From left, Acting Director at U.S. Government Accountability Office Kathryn Larin, Homeland Security and Justice Director Rebecca Gambler, HHS Assistant Inspector General Ann Maxwell and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Commander Jonathan White are sworn in before the House Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

Associated Press

Health and Human Services agencies manage the care of migrant children in the U.S., including those separated from their parents at the border. The vast majority of children under their care, tens of thousands, cross the border alone.

"Separating children poses significant risk of traumatic psychological injury to the child," White testified. He said neither he nor anyone he worked with "would ever have supported such a policy."

The separations were met with mass outrage from re-

ligious leaders, lawmakers and health officials who called them inhumane. They were stopped June 20 when Trump issued an executive order. A federal judge ruled about a week later that the children had to be reunified with their parents.

But there was no system in place to connect children to their parents, who were being held in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody. White said officials combed through thousands of records by hand to find children who had been separated.

The court ruling involved about 2,700 children separated under the zero-tolerance policy where parents were criminally prosecuted for illegally entering the U.S. The HHS internal watchdog said last month likely thousands more were separated starting in 2017, but because no specific separation records exist

before the judge's ruling, they can't say for sure how many. Those children have already been released out to sponsors—in large part, parents or close relatives.

The government is allowed to separate children to protect the safety and security of the child if there are serious medical concerns, if the parent has a criminal history, if it's unclear the person is a parent. White said there is no process for parents to appeal a separation.

The committee also heard from a doctors, a child psychologist and advocacy groups that helped children separated by the Trump administration.

Attorney Lee Gelernt from the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the lawsuit that challenged the separations, said the policy was "the worst thing I've seen in my 25 years" of doing immigration and civil liberties work. □

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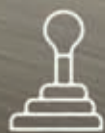
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Guantanamo prison looms as option as IS fight ends

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Guantanamo Bay detention center would receive new prisoners for the first time in more than a decade under one option being considered as the U.S. withdraws its forces from Syria and works to resolve the fate of hundreds of captured suspected Islamic State fighters, officials say.

U.S.-backed Syrian fighters have custody of nearly 1,000 suspected IS fighters who the State Department said should be sent back to their home countries and prosecuted. The Syrian fighters have warned they may not be able to continue to hold the IS fighters after the withdrawal of American forces from Syria ordered by President Donald Trump in December. If they can't be repatriated, though, the detention center on the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, could be used to hold them "where lawful and appropriate," the State De-



In this Nov. 20, 2013 file photo, reviewed by the U.S. military, the entrance to Camp VI detention facility is guarded at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.

partment said Thursday. "The Administration's National Strategy for Counterterrorism makes very clear that Law of Armed Conflict detention, including at Guantanamo, remains an important and effective counterterrorism tool," it said in a statement to

The Associated Press in response to questions about the prisoners. Trump had said in his first State of the Union last year that he would use Guantanamo "in many cases" to detain prisoners as part of the fight against Islamic State and al-Qaida. As a

tention center, he said he would "load it up with some bad dudes."

"Repatriating foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin and ensuring they are prosecuted and detained is the best solution to prevent them from returning to the battlefield," the State Department said. A U.S. official, said Guantanamo is the "option of last resort."

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. has identified about 50 people among the more than 900 held by Syrian forces as "high value" suspects that could be transported to Guantanamo if they are not repatriated.

Sending Islamic State prisoners to Guantanamo would open up new legal challenges, according to experts. □

Associated Press

candidate, when asked about what he would do with the controversial de-

Democrats and GOP square off over Trump's tax returns



Chairman of House Ways & Means Committee Oversight Subcommittee Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., speaks with Ranking Member Mike Kelly, R-Pa., during a hearing on proposals to compel presidents and presidential candidates to make public years of their tax returns on Capitol Hill, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer**


WASHINGTON (AP) — With Democrats now controlling the House and holding the legal key to seeking President Donald Trump's tax returns, Republican lawmakers are invoking privacy in defending Trump's flank.

At an oversight hearing Thursday, lawmakers examined proposals to compel presidents and presidential candidates to make years

of their tax returns public. And they discussed the authority under current law for the head of the House Ways and Means Committee — now Democratic Rep. Richard Neal — to make a written request for any tax returns to the Treasury secretary.

The law says the Treasury chief "shall furnish" the requested information to members of the committee for them to examine behind closed doors. □

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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****U.N.: U.S. force-feeding immigrants may breach torture agreement****By GARANCE BURKE**
Associated Press

The United States could be violating the U.N. Convention Against Torture by force-feeding immigrant detainees on a hunger strike inside an El Paso detention facility, the United Nations human rights office said Thursday.

The Geneva-based Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is concerned that force-feeding could constitute "ill treatment" that goes against the convention, which the United States ratified in 1994, spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told The Associated Press.

The U.N.'s statement echoes concerns raised by 14 Democratic lawmakers who sent a letter to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Thursday requesting more information about nine Indian men who are being force-fed through nasal tubes after refusing to eat to protest what they described as unfair treatment.

One of the hunger strikers, a 22-year-old asylum seeker who has not eaten in more than a month, said he was dragged from his cell three times a day and strapped down on a bed as a group of people poured liquid into tubes inserted into his nose.

"It is critical that ICE commit to ending this practice," said the letter spearheaded by Texas Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar, who toured the El Paso Processing Center and met with the men after AP reported on the force-feeding last week.

Hunger strikes are relatively uncommon inside ICE detention. Last month, ICE began non-consensual feeding and hydration of



In this June 2018 file photo, protesters walking along Montana Avenue outside the El Paso Processing Center, in El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

numerous El Paso detainees after a federal judge issued a court order allowing them to be force-fed against their will.

"ICE is committed to preserving the lives of those in its custody and maintaining orderly detention facility operations," the agency said Thursday in response to the U.N.'s statement. "For their health and safety, ICE closely monitors the food and water intake of those detainees identified as being on a hunger strike. Medical staff constantly monitor detainees to evaluate whether the hunger strike poses a risk to the detainee's life or permanent health."

While ICE doesn't keep statistics on force-feeding throughout the immigration detention system, attorneys, advocates and agency staffers AP spoke with did not recall a situation where it had come to force-feeding. Federal

courts have not conclusively decided whether judges must issue orders before ICE force-feeds detainees, so rules vary by district and orders are sometimes filed secretly.

The controversy comes as President Donald Trump prepares to visit El Paso on Monday for his first campaign rally of the year to be held at a coliseum in the bustling border city. The detainees, who are refusing food to protest what they describe as verbal abuse and threats of deportation from guards, are being held in a highly guarded facility surrounded by a chain-link fence on a busy street near the airport.

The U.N. human rights office did not make any recommendation in this case. Force-feeding raises ethics issues for medical professionals who work inside ICE facilities.

The American Medical Association has expressed its

concerns about physicians participating in the force-feeding of hunger strikers on multiple occasions, and its own principles of medical ethics state "a patient who has decision-making capacity may accept or refuse any recommended medical intervention."

The association also en-

dorses the World Medical Association Declaration of Tokyo, which states that when prisoners refuse food and physicians believe they are capable of "rational judgment concerning the consequences of such a voluntary refusal of nourishment, he or she shall not be fed artificially." □

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Parkland attack fueled big shift in America's gun politics

By **LISA MARIE PANE**
Associated Press

Last year's shooting at a Florida high school sparked a movement among a younger generation angered by gun violence and set the stage for a significant shift in America's gun politics.

Thousands of student protesters took to the streets and inspired hashtags such as #NeverAgain and #Enough. They also mobilized to register a new generation of voters.

Candidates were emboldened too. Many of them confronted the issue in last year's elections and were rewarded with victory over incumbents supported by the National Rifle Association. That helped Democrats take back control of the House.

"What we've seen here is a tectonic shift in our politics on the guns issue," said Peter Ambler, executive director of Giffords, the gun violence prevention group founded by former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. These people "didn't get elected despite their advocacy for safer gun laws. They got elected because of their advocacy for safer gun laws. They made that a core part of their message to the American people." The political landscape began to change just days after a former student shot and killed 17 students and adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

At the state level, a surge of gun-control measures were enacted, including increasing the minimum age for purchasing a firearm and requiring waiting periods. The number of states with so-called "red flag" laws — which allow temporary confiscation of weapons from people deemed a safety risk — doubled.

At the federal level, for the first time in modern history, gun-control groups outspent the powerful NRA on the 2018 midterm elections. The new Democratic majority in the House this week held its first hearing on gun control in a decade.

Even under GOP-control of both chambers during President Donald Trump's first two years in office, some of

gas and the slayings of 26 churchgoers in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

In the wake of those mas-

years.

Parkland "definitely marked a turning point," said Adam Winkler, a professor at the

fail to gain traction in the Senate or be signed into law by the president, she said.



In this March 24, 2018 file photo, Emma Gonzalez, a survivor of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., closes her eyes and cries as she stands silently at the podium for the amount of time it took the Parkland shooter to go on his killing spree during the "March for Our Lives" rally in support of gun control in Washington.

Associated Press

the gun industry's top priorities — easing restrictions on firearm suppressors and making it easier to carry concealed firearms over state borders — stalled.

Still, with one of the most gun-friendly presidents in the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court now has a majority of justices who are viewed as ardent supporters of the Second Amendment, a shift that is likely to have a lasting effect on gun rights.

The most prominent shift occurred in Florida, a state that has long welcomed guns and has a strong NRA presence. Lawmakers raised the gun-purchasing age and imposed a three-day waiting period.

The Parkland attack came just a few months after two other gun tragedies: the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history that killed 59 people at an outdoor concert in Las Ve-

sacres, the NRA's influence waned. Trump directed the Justice Department to ban bump stocks, the device used by the Las Vegas gunman that allowed his rifles to mimic fully automatic weaponry.

The NRA also faced boycotts from corporate America, with some financial firms refusing to do business with gunmakers and some retailers pulling firearms and ammunition off shelves. A federal investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election widened to include suspicions that agents sought to court NRA officials and funnel money through the group.

The NRA has cast itself as being in financial distress because of deep-pocketed liberal opposition to guns and what it calls "toxic lies" in news reports. Last summer, the organization raised its annual dues for the second time in two

University of California Los Angeles School of Law and gun rights expert. "There is no doubt that the energy, the enthusiasm, the mobilization of these students was very influential. It did affect a lot of people across the country."

But, he said, the NRA "remains a powerhouse," and it's too early to suggest that gun groups' troubles are insurmountable.

"No one ever made a lot of money betting against the NRA," he said.

NRA spokeswoman Jennifer Baker questioned whether the influence of gun-rights advocates has waned, noting that Florida elected a governor backed by the NRA and a majority of the organization's legislative candidates won last year. Despite the Democratic gains in Washington, proposals for gun restrictions still face long odds. Any action taken by the House will

"They exploit these high-profile tragedies to sensationalize. They exploit them to play on people's emotions instead of doing their jobs to address the underlying issues that are really causing these" shootings, Baker said.

Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, said the industry is accustomed to people believing the latest shooting will bring the gun industry to its knees.

"They said that in 2013 after the Sandy Hook shooting, and they absolutely said that again last year," Pratt said. With the exception of Florida, the blue states got bluer and the red states got redder and expanded gun rights, he said.

Polls show that gun control is not a top priority for Americans, he said.

"I don't think the needle has moved at all," Pratt said. □



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This 2005 photo provided by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials shows puppies rescued from a farm in Colombia destined for use by a U.S. veterinarian working for a Colombian drug trafficking ring.

Associated Press

Vet sentenced for implanting heroin in puppies as drug mules

NEW YORK (AP) — A veterinarian who surgically implanted liquid heroin in puppies on behalf of Colombian drug traffickers was sentenced to six years in prison Thursday. One of the puppies went on to become a drug-detection dog named Heroína.

The sentence for Andres Lopez Elorez was announced in Brooklyn by U.S. Attorney Richard P. Donoghue and other law enforcement officials.

Elorez, who pleaded guilty in September to conspiring to import heroin into the United States, was part of a scheme that turned puppies and dogs into drug couriers by stitching packets of liquid heroin into their bodies.

The U.S. government said Elorez leased a farm in Medellin, Colombia, where he secretly raised dogs and surgically implanted bags of liquid heroin in nine puppies for importation.

On Jan. 1, 2005, law enforcement searched the farm and seized 17 bags of liquid heroin, including 10 bags that were removed from puppies.

Three of the puppies died after contracting a virus following the surgeries.

The Colombian-born Elorez was a fugitive until he was arrested in Spain in 2015; he was extradited to the United States in May 2018.

At least two of the puppies went on to a better existence. Donna, a beagle, was adopted by a Colombian police officer and his family. Heroína, a Rottweiler, was trained by Colombian police to be a drug detection dog. □

Vermont man who harassed black lawmaker faces gun charge

By LISA RATHKE
Associated Press

BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP) — A self-described white nationalist who has harassed Vermont's only female black legislator who later resigned pleaded not guilty on Thursday to two counts of possessing illegal, large capacity gun magazines.

Max Misch, 36, was ordered not to possess, use or buy firearms and to have no contact with former Rep. Kiah Morris, her husband or Misch's ex-wife. The judge also granted the state's request to have the Vermont State Police confiscate Misch's weapons and ammunition to ensure that he abides by the conditions.

"When people talk about stockpiling weapons and ammunition, talk about white supremacy, that concerns me," said Attorney General T.J. Donovan who attended the arraignment.

According to an affidavit, Vermont State Police investigated after learning in January that Misch had allegedly purchased an AK-47 and several 30-round magazines. Last year, the Vermont Legislature passed a law banning high capacity magazines.

Misch's ex-wife told police that she had disclosed to her therapist concerns about Misch purchasing weapons, large capacity magazines and stockpiling ammunition, the police affidavit said. The therapist alerted police, according to the affidavit. Misch's



Max Misch, a self-described white nationalist, walks out of the Bennington County courtroom, Thursday afternoon, Feb. 7, 2019, in Bennington, Vt.

Associated Press

ex-wife said Misch "had a predatory nature and tries to intimidate people physically and through the internet," the affidavit said.

Police searched his home on Wednesday and found two 30-round magazines, police said. Donovan said he believes it's the first time that someone has been charged with illegally possessing such magazines in Vermont.

She tried to fight the court order that he not have, use or buy weapons, saying he has received death threats and wishes to possess them for his own personal safety but the judge imposed the condition.

Morris resigned in September after being racially harassed online, and the victim of other incidents. Vermont State Police and the attorney general's office in-

vestigated and found that Misch's harassment was protected by free speech and violated no laws so prosecutors declined to prosecute.

Misch showed up at a press conference last month when officials announced the findings. He told reporters afterward that he's an online troll out of boredom and because "it's fun." Donovan called the case "a dynamic situation."

"We're going to continue to do our job, and investigate the facts and the evidence that we know that bias incidences and hate crimes are happening in this state. We have zero tolerance for it," he said. "We'll investigate it and when the evidence is sufficient we will prosecute people for these acts of hate." □

UK, EU leaders don't budge on Brexit but agree to more talks

By **RAF CASERT**
LORNE COOK
JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Britain and the European Union refused to budge an inch Thursday toward any compromise over Brexit, but at least they are on speaking terms again about their impending divorce.

They agreed to further negotiations in the next few weeks, although that means any deal will come perilously close to the scheduled deadline of March 29. That risks a chaotic departure for Britain that could be costly to both sides — both to businesses and ordinary people.

"A no-deal is for us not an option. It is a disaster on both sides of the Channel," said Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's chief Brexit official.

Looking at the ever-tighter deadline, British Prime Minister Theresa May said after talks at EU headquarters in Brussels, "it's not going to be easy."

But she vowed: "I am going



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, British Prime Minister Theresa May and European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, center, walk to their meeting at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

to deliver Brexit. I am going to deliver it on time."

May was able to clear the air after EU Council President Donald Tusk exacerbated the frosty climate

Wednesday by wondering aloud what "special place in hell" might be reserved for those who backed Brexit with no idea of how to deliver it.

May said she had "raised with President Tusk the language that he used," saying his words "caused widespread dismay" in Britain.

Tusk's comments were condemned by British Brexiters but at least served to focus minds on how wide a gulf remains between the U.K. and the EU. It was little surprise that talks at EU Commission headquarters were described as "robust."

At the end, May and EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker agreed on a renewed effort to hold more negotiations on seeking a breakthrough.

The two leaders agreed to assess progress "before the end of February to take stock of these discussions," a joint statement said. Two years ago, May set Brexit day as March 29 — and original plans were to have a deal in place six months ahead of time.

As the time shrinks between a deal and the cutoff date, the more difficult it becomes for businesses and authorities to adapt quickly to the fundamental changes that a withdrawal from the bloc would entail.

Both sides still disagree

on whether the divorce agreement struck between May's government and the EU — and then summarily rejected by Britain's Parliament — can be changed to ease British objections.

"The EU27 will not reopen the Withdrawal Agreement, which represents a carefully balanced compromise between the European Union and the U.K., in which both sides have made significant concessions," the joint statement said.

U.K. officials said May's primary concern was not to be "trapped" in a system that could see Britain linked to the EU in a customs union for an indefinite time and not be able to set its own trade agenda.

Britain's Parliament voted down May's Brexit deal last month, largely because of concerns about a provision for the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. The mechanism, known as the backstop, is a safeguard that would keep the U.K. in a customs union with the EU to remove the need for checks along the Irish border until a permanent new trading relationship is in place.

Thursday's statement said that May "raised various options for dealing with these concerns in the context of the withdrawal agreement."

Many pro-Brexit lawmakers in Britain say they won't vote for the withdrawal agreement unless the backstop is removed from the 585-page, which the EU leaders oppose vehemently.

Juncker and the other leaders have agreed to look for a compromise in a political text accompanying the withdrawal agreement, but not in the document itself.

"What we would look at as positive from today is that there are going to be talks," a senior Downing Street official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the UK-EU negotiations. "Obviously we've got work to do." □

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Turkey: Illegal construction a focus as collapse deaths rise



Rescue workers continue to remove rubble from an eight-story building which collapsed a day earlier in Istanbul, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

By **MEHMET GUZEL**
SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — As emergency teams worked around the clock in search of any more survivors trapped in the rubble of an eight-story apartment building in Istanbul, its collapse put the spotlight on illegal construction and raised alarms over the scope of possible destruction in the event that a large earthquake hit the city.

Search teams recovered a total of seven bodies from the rubble on Thursday, raising the death toll from Wednesday's collapse to 10. Thirteen people were pulled out of the debris with injuries, including a 5-year-old girl who was rescued on Thursday, 18 hours after the collapse of the building in the mostly residential Kartal district, on the Asian side of the city.

Authorities have not disclosed how many people remain unaccounted-for. The building had 14 apartments with 43 people registered as residents.

Neighbor Cemile Dag said the collapse brought to mind haunting images from a deadly earthquake that hit northwestern Turkey in 1999, destroying thousands of homes.

"At first I thought a gas tank had exploded in our building. I looked behind me and the building, like a deck of cards, fell to the ground. There were wails,

Associated Press

screaming," she said.

Dag added: "People are gone... Just like that disaster during the earthquake, this is the same."

Officials have said the building's top three floors were built illegally although the cause of the collapse is still under investigation.

Experts from the Istanbul branch of the chamber of civil engineers who visited the site concluded that the "load-bearing columns had lost the capacity to carry the weight" of the building, the group said in a statement Thursday.

A majority of buildings in Istanbul are "either unlicensed, illegal or were constructed without any engineering services," the group claimed.

"You don't need to be a civil engineer to guess (the result) of a probable earthquake," the group added. That group and others have strongly criticized a government amnesty for illegal constructions that was introduced last year to bolster the ruling party ahead of elections.

"Such disasters will continue," the group warned.

Can Akin, of the Chamber of Geology Engineers told The Associated Press that many buildings in Istanbul were built without an adequate investigation of the ground conditions.

"Istanbul is situated on a seismic belt," Akin said. "In the event of an earthquake in Istanbul, we could be faced with a dire picture."

In August, Turkey's emergency management agency, AFAD, warned that up to 30,000 people could be killed in Istanbul if a magnitude-7.5 earthquake were to hit the city of 15 million.

The agency estimated 50,000 people could be critically injured and 44,802 buildings could collapse.

Some 2.4 million people would be left homeless.

That warning was made on the anniversary of the Aug. 17, 1999, magnitude-7.4 earthquake that killed more than 17,000 people in northwestern Turkey.

On Thursday, Murat Kurum, the environment and urbanization minister, acknowledged that several

other buildings in the vicinity had seven, nine or 10 floors, despite receiving permits for five.

"Provincial authorities are in the process of identifying them and ... action will be taken against buildings that carry risks," he said. "Our citizens' lives and property are of paramount importance." □

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Netanyahu channeling Trump in Israel's election campaign

By ARON HELLER,
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Seeking re-election under a cloud of criminal investigations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looks to be channeling his inner Donald Trump in an angry campaign against perceived domestic enemies.

Drawing clear inspiration from Trump, Netanyahu's Likud party has plastered huge billboards of the two leaders together and launched a Trump-like weekly webcast to counter what it calls the "fake news" industry.

The campaign reflects Trump's popularity in Israel, one of the few countries where an alliance with the American president is considered a political asset. But it also risks undermining the traditional bipartisan support for Israel among Americans.

Despite his troubles at home, Trump has earned the appreciation of most Israelis by recognizing Jerusalem as their capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there. Trump has further



In this Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019 photo, an election campaign billboard shows Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and US President Donald Trump in Tel Aviv, Israel.

impressed Israelis by backing out of the international nuclear deal with Iran, re-imposing stiff sanctions on the Islamic Republic and vigorously defending Israel in international forums.

"This administration, not just Trump, has been the friendliest administration to Israel since 1948," said Michael

Oren, a deputy minister and former ambassador to Washington. "Netanyahu is just tapping into these current global trends of people living in a world of uncertainty who want strong, sometimes brutally strong, leaders."

Netanyahu and Trump enjoy strong personal rapport. Netanyahu also seems to relish the American president's attitude toward the Middle East, not only on Iran but also his hands-off approach to the Palestinian issue and Israeli settlement construction. After an icy eight-year relationship with Barack Obama, Netanyahu has gone out of his way to praise Trump at every turn.

He also has held his tongue on Trump's various scandals, even after a neo-Nazi march in Charlottesville, Virginia, when Trump appeared to defend the actions of white supremacists. On a visit to Washington, Netanyahu even implored critics to stop questioning Trump over the supposed anti-Semitism of some of his supporters.

While Trump's isolationism, particularly his planned pullout from Syria, may not be good for Israel, his unabashed pro-Israel rhetoric has made him popular domestically, said Nahum Barnea, one of Israel's most influential columnists.

Beyond a confluence of interests, Trump and Netanyahu seem to share a populist streak against their countries' more liberal establishments — to the delight of their nationalist bases.

Netanyahu has responded to a series of corruption investigations with Trump-like attacks on Israeli media, law-enforcement, judiciary and other "elites" he believes are bent on his removal. He is quick to deride any critic as a "leftist," and, like Trump, has taken to social media to whip up his base.

"Netanyahu is a person who knows how to learn and imitate others and he's been doing it in the past two-three years since Trump rose to power," said Barnea. "He's been far harsher in his domestic expressions and he knows that you create a political victory by pitting one sector against another."

Trump, who endorsed Netanyahu in a fawning pre-Israeli election clip in 2013 — even before he got into politics — appears to equally admire the Israeli leader.

On Instagram, Trump shared an image of the giant billboard over the Ayalon highway in Tel Aviv featuring the two smiling and shaking hands under the slogan "Netanyahu. In

a different league."

More significantly, he is expected to host Netanyahu in a lavish state visit to Washington shortly before the April 9 election in Israel. In response to the billboard ads, Valerie O'Brien, spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Israel, clarified that the U.S. was "not involved in Likud's campaign messages or strategy."

While beneficial in the short-term, some warn the tight alignment with Trump could have negative long-term implications.

Israel, once a source of solid bipartisan support, has become an increasingly divisive issue among Americans in recent years. A poll conducted by the Pew Research Center last year, for instance, found Republicans more sympathetic to Israel than Democrats by a nearly 3-to-1 margin. Some fear an eventual backlash from Democrats.

"The more that Democrats don't like Trump, the more that anything he associates himself with, in this case Netanyahu, gets drawn into that equation," said Ron Klein, a former congressman who now chairs the Jewish Democratic Council of America. "For those of us who are pro-Israel, that's unhealthy."

Netanyahu is not alone in tapping into Trump's appeal. Likud backbencher Oren Hazan recently said the highlight of his term was the selfie he took with Trump during a 2017 visit. Even Netanyahu's top challenger, former military chief Benny Gantz, chose a campaign slogan — "Israel Before Everything" — that many viewed as echoing "America First."

But only Netanyahu has molded his politics in Trump's image.

He has long had a rocky relationship with the media and accuses it, along with police and prosecutors, of being part of a "leftist" witch hunt to force him from office. Like Trump, he has also gone after former allies, floating conspiracy theories about an alleged planned putsch by a Likud rival. □



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Russian official: Another nuclear pact with US in trouble

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Another U.S.-Russian nuclear pact is in danger following the U.S. move to withdraw from a Cold War-era arms control treaty, a senior Russian diplomat said Thursday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov charged that the U.S. refusal to negotiate an extension to the New Start treaty signals Washington's intention to let it expire in 2021. He warned that time is running out to save the pact, which was signed in 2010 by U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Ryabkov said that the U.S. has shown "no readiness or desire" to engage in substantive talks on extending the pact, which limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers.

U.S. Undersecretary of State



Russian President Vladimir Putin makes a point as he speaks at the plenary session of the Business Russia forum in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019.

Andrea Thompson argued in Wednesday's phone call with reporters that there is enough time to discuss the

treaty's extension. "We have until 2021," Thompson said. "It is a relatively simple treaty to ex-

tend, so we have time with that." But Ryabkov warned that the procedure isn't going

Associated Press

to be simple. He noted that the U.S. said it has converted 56 Trident submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missiles and 41 B-52H strategic bombers that carried nuclear weapons for use with conventional weapons, but stonewalled Russia's repeated requests for a verifiable way to exclude their conversion back to nuclear status.

"In the worst-case scenario, they may carry 1,286 nuclear warheads," he said, meaning that the U.S. could nearly double the number of deployed warheads allowed by the New Start treaty.

He said "that there is almost no time left" to discuss that and other issues for the treaty to be extended by another five years as envisaged during the signing.

"It gives reason to suspect our American counterparts of setting ground to avoid those discussions ... and just let the treaty quietly expire," Ryabkov said. □

Japan's Abe vows to resolve territorial dispute with Russia

By HARUKA NUGA
KAORI HITOMI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed Thursday to take a "step-by-step" approach in resolving a territorial dispute with Russia left over from World War II.

Abe told a rally of former residents of four islands seized by Russia in the war's final days and their supporters Thursday that settling the conflict over what Japan calls its "northern territories" was difficult but necessary.

"It is not easy to resolve this task remaining over 73 years since the war. Yet, we need to tackle this,"



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, second from right, arrives to deliver a speech during an annual rally, calling on Russia to return disputed islands which Japan calls the Northern Territories and Russia calls Kuril Islands, in Tokyo Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

Associated Press

Abe said. "Keeping in mind your sentiments toward the Northern Territory, we are determined to take a step-

by-step approach toward resolving the territorial issue," he said. Regaining the islands north of Japan's

northern main island of Hokkaido has been a priority for Abe and his conservative base. For seven decades, the dispute has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a peace treaty. In November, Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to accelerate negotiations based on a 1956 Soviet proposal to return two of the islands to Japan. That suggestion angered Russian nationalists, and last month Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned Japan it must recognize the islands as part of Russia as a starting point for talks. Abe said the negotiations would continue based on the guidelines agreed

to with Putin in order to sign a peace treaty "while people of Japan and Russia strengthen their mutual trust and friendship."

While Abe is keen to make progress on the dispute with Russia and find opportunities to cooperate in developing oil and gas and other natural resources, China is the overriding concern, said James Brown, associated professor at Temple University's Japan Campus. "There is also the concern that the United States, especially under the 'America First' policy of (President Donald) Trump, is somewhat of a less reliable ally than it was in the past," Brown said. □

Brazil education overhaul aims at ousting 'Marxist ideology'

By **DIANE JEANTET**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

President Jair Bolsonaro is taking his anti-leftist ideological war to Brazil's classrooms and universities, causing angst among teachers and education officials who say the government wants to fight an enemy that doesn't exist.

Bolsonaro and top officials have announced plans to revise textbooks to excise references to feminism, homosexuality and violence against women, say the military will take over some public schools and frequently bash Paulo Freire, one of Brazil's most famous educators, whose ideas had worldwide influence.

"One of the goals to get Brazil out of the worst positions in international education rankings is to combat the Marxist rubbish that has spread in educational institutions," Bolsonaro tweeted on the eve of his inauguration.

While students may not yet find many differences as they return to school this month, changes are afoot. "We are still waiting to see how, in practice, all this is going to turn out," said Nilton Brandao, president of one of Brazil's largest teachers' unions, PROIFES Federacao. "Right now, it does not make any sense." For the government, the ideological battle begins with the removal of Freire's legacy in schools, which Bolsonaro and other conservatives say turns students into "political militants."

Freire, who died in 1997, was one of the founders of critical pedagogy. Conservatives contend Freire's method encourages students to challenge traditional values such as family and the church. A socialist, Freire was briefly imprisoned during the 1964-1985 military dictatorship that Bolsonaro has repeatedly praised.

On the campaign trail, Bolsonaro said he wanted to "enter the Education Ministry with a flamethrower to remove Paulo Freire."

Bolsonaro and his educa-

tion minister appear to be looking for inspiration in philosophers like Olavo de Carvalho, a Brazilian who

ten by the previous administration and published by mistake. Even so, Education Minister Ricardo Velez

religions but has also been adopted by the Brazilian LGBT community.

"Don't worry, there won't

focus on improving training and salaries for teachers, making the entrance exam for teachers tougher and building a common syllabus for schools across the country.

Brazil ranked 63rd out of the 72 countries and regions in the 2015 Program for International Student Assessment, conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

According to the group, Brazil has as one of the largest shares of adults without secondary education. Schools are overcrowded, teacher salaries and low and school buildings are often crumbling.

More than 5,800 schools had no water supply in 2017, nearly 5,000 had no electricity and 8,400 had no sewage, according to government figures.

Many Brazilians don't appear convinced by Bolsonaro's plans.

In a poll published Jan. 8, 71 percent of those surveyed said politics should be discussed at school and 54 percent thought it was fine to discuss sexual education inside the classroom.

The poll, however, indicated that the new administration's conservative views played well with evangelicals, a powerful voter base for Bolsonaro during the campaign. Fifty-nine percent of evangelicals said they did not approve of sexual education being discussed at school.

The Datafolha poll was based on 2,077 interviews carried out Dec. 18 and Dec. 19, with a margin of error of two percentage points.

Caua dos Santos Borges, a 15-year-old public school student in Rio de Janeiro, said that in her experience teachers rarely spoke about politics in the classroom and gender had never felt like a core area of the curriculum.

"Once, a student asked the teacher if he supported Bolsonaro, but the teacher didn't respond and changed the subject," dos Santos Borges said. □



In this Oct. 26, 2018 file photo, university students hold signs with messages that read in Portuguese: "Not Him" and "My faith and torture don't mix" during a protest against an electoral court order for universities to remove banners containing 'negative propaganda' against then presidential frontrunner Jair Bolsonaro, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

lives in the U.S. and is known for his anti-globalism and anti-socialist views.

While Freire believed in the state's mission to educate the Brazilian people, including poor rural farmers and the illiterate, de Carvalho advocates reducing the state's role in education, favoring private or religious schools.

"The government does not have to educate anyone; it is the society that has to educate itself," de Carvalho said last year during a talk about education on his YouTube channel. He added that proposals "based on the idea that the federal government is the great educator I am going to fight to the death."

After Bolsonaro took office Jan. 1, the Education Ministry dismantled its diversity department and published a new set of guidelines for textbook publishers that eliminated references to topics such as violence against women and sexism. Receiving an outpouring of criticism, officials backtracked on the revised texts, saying the new guidelines had been writ-

Rodriguez vowed in his inaugural speech to end the "aggressive promotion of the gender ideology."

Velez instead defended what he called traditional values, such as family, church, school and the nation, which he said were threatened by a "crazy globalist wave."

"The Brazilian who travels is a cannibal. He steals things from the hotel, steals the life jacket from the plane," said Velez in an interview with *Veja* magazine this week. "Our kids and teenagers must receive citizenship education, which teaches how to act according to the law and morality."

Bolsonaro has said he would review the content of Brazil's national high school exam to rid it of any questions on gender or LGBT movements. He made the announcement in a YouTube video after seeing a question from last year's exam on a "secret dialect used by gays and transvestites," called Pajuba.

The Pajuba dialect mixes Portuguese and West African languages and is mostly used in Afro-Brazilian

be any more questions like this," Bolsonaro said.

After his inauguration, Velez told the newspaper *Folha de S. Paulo* that his office will encourage municipalities interested in letting their schools be run by the military or the police.

Brazil has 13 military-run schools, which are aimed at educating children of soldiers but also accept some students based on merit. The military is the most respected institution in the country and its schools have a better reputation than many public schools. The military is also sometimes called in to co-run public schools and bring back order.

Last year, 39.5 million students attended a public school, while private institutions, which can cost several thousand dollars a month, served 9 million.

In general, critics say the administration is focused on the wrong things.

Claudia Costin, director of Brazil's Center for Excellence and Innovation in Education Policies, a think tank based in Rio de Janeiro, said efforts should

LOCAL



Dare to Care



ORANJESTAD — Home care services can provide your elderly or loved one with the companionship that they desire. They will match caregivers to clients based on their interests, helping the caregiver-client relationship to flourish. That's what the Homecare foundation, 'Fundacion Cuida Nos Grandi Thuiszorg' is for.

FCMG was founded in August 2017 with the sole purpose of taking care of the elderly in the comfort of their own home. Why at home? Studies showed that a person being taken care of at their own home showed more progress during their recovery mode. Seeing the demand there is on the island for healthcare especially for the elderly and the long waiting list in order to become eligible for such care a group of people with passion and love towards this group age decided to offer their contribution to this problem. Due to perhaps surgery, accident, disability or just aging some daily activities such as dressing, bathing, driving or grocery shop-



ping can become difficult, that's why the FCMG foundation is here to help.

Home health care is important for individuals who are unable to take care of themselves completely on their own. A combination of skilled and non-skilled professional support the individual during their time of need. This asset can provide relief for family members, acting as primary or secondary caregivers. The majority of seniors want to stay in their homes as long as possible. Your home is where you're comfortable. It's what is familiar. It provides comfort. If you move out to an assisted living community or nursing home, you might

have the feeling to start over again. You may have to share a room with a stranger. With in-home care, you're able to remain as independent as you can be.

The foundation is completely based on home care. They are able to do any kind of healthcare treatment that you might need assistance with.

Their services consists of:

- Help the patient get in and out of bed
- Bathing the patient
- Feeding the patient
- Medication Management
- Take care of wounds
- Monitoring heart rate and blood pressure
- Caring for wounds from injury or surgery
- Managing IVs and catheters
- Providing physical and cognitive therapies
- Educating patients and caregivers
- Preparing meals and cleaning the home
- Providing transportation
- Providing companionship
- Make appointments with Doctor's

The foundation knows the struggles and the high cost of good health care therefore they offer their services against affordable prices for each and every one. When becoming a member of the foundation you will receive several benefits such as special discounts, availability during afterhours and holidays and assistance with any kind of issue you might encounter.

Are you having mobility issues, do you have a family member who suffers from Alzheimer's disease or any other kind of disability and would like to have passionate and loving caregivers to help you give them a call at 630-3663 and they will surely keep the weight of your shoulder.

The foundation provides its services seven days a week. For more information you can contact Mrs. Forero at 630-3663 or by email at fcmgaruba@gmail.com or follow them on facebook Fundacion Cuida Mi Grandi. □



Condominiums with a Plus



EAGLE BEACH — Imagine: a white-sanded beach, blue-turquoise ocean, inviting pool with lazy sun beds and an amazing residence where you feel home, no actually: it IS your home. A dream come true as you are the owner of a condominium at Azure Beach Residences, right on the foot of Aruba's Eagle Beach, a multiple rewarded beach being the best in the Caribbean. Aruba Today talked to one of the enthusiastic sales representatives of this piece of heaven, Marinelda Cataya.

All condominiums face the clear blue ocean with the white-sandy beaches, even the ones on the ground floor. Tower I is completed and space wise you cannot go wrong: the 2 -bedroom condominiums are 1024 sq. ft. and the 3-bedroom units 1670 sq. ft. Storage is included so just leave your chairs and bicycles locked up, even when you rent out your units, rooms are offered in lock offs meaning your personal belongings stay safe in one locked bedroom while the rest of the place can be rented out. Tower II is in construction and will have studios and 1-bedroom units. "And we have our sepa-

rate building The Club House ready. We are very proud to show it."

We Can Show the Product

The big plus about this project is that you can actually see the result already, you do not buy from a drawing, and at Azure they can show you the end result for real. The construction of Tower II is running according to schedule, the condominiums are divided and planned to be ready in 2020. This tower has studios and 1-bedroom apartments, Tower I has only 2- and 3- bedroom units", Marinelda explains. Either for investment or pleasure, this is a great opportunity. "The interior of Tower II will differ as we will use more colors and natural elements like wood. Tower I is mainly in white styling. Quality is high, we are going for the newest technology with regards to windows for example. A soft opening is scheduled for the realtors and media to show the product."

Cozy Club House

Guests are already using the facilities of the residence and remodeling their homes. "The



Club House is finished now and I can tell you honestly that the amenities we have here are unique. They are different from the other condominiums because we have a separate building where we offer a nice lobby, a restaurant bar, the owners club with a pool table, and where you can play chess or any kind of game and an outside area with BBQ/grills so you can bring your family and friends along", says Marinelda. "It creates that family, intimate, homey feeling. By the way we share amenities with Blue Residences where they have a playground for kids as well as a beach tennis field." The Club House restaurant is a kind of open lobby bar with breakfast, lunch and dinner available. The fitness has an amazing view likewise the members club which offers laptop connections and WIFI of course. Other amenities are two infinity pools, a Jacuzzi area and a tennis court. "Important to mention is that we are energy efficient as all units have double glass, we use a well for watering the garden and solar panels for lightning. We are most eco-friendly as possible." says Marinelda. In her opinion potential buyers want to feel trust and that is exactly what Azure offers as you see the finished result of Tower I where they almost sold all units. "So you can feel comfortable with the investment. Unique also is that you will find few condominiums right in front of the beach, so your sunset and ocean view are included. Your condo is delivered with luxury appliances, her you meet the comfort of a resort yet the privacy of your own place. Your home with the convenience of the resort."

For more information you can visit the website [http:// www.azure-aruba.com](http://www.azure-aruba.com). The sales office is open every week day from 9 AM -5 PM, Saturdays 10 AM - 1 PM. □



Harbour House is another project of this group that will be launched soon in downtown, offering 94 condominiums, just in front of Renaissance Mall. Studio's and 2-3 bedrooms, a 360 degrees view gym and Jacuzzi on top. Located in the former Marasul building. More information can be found at: [www. Harbourhousearuba.com](http://www.Harbourhousearuba.com)

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PALM BEACH — Recently, Darline de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are John & Patricia Cloonan resident of North Waterboro Maine, who have been coming to the island for 10 consecutive years.

The lovely couple stated that they love the island very much. For them the island is a new adventure every time, there are lots of things to do, great food and lovely people.

De Cuba together with member of Divi Tamarijn Mr. Francis Ridderstap Leisure Services Manager presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



Aruba to Me

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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from

Dan Pedriani. He wrote:

*Aruba to me is...
Butterfly Kisses*

Dan learned the real meaning of "Butterfly Kisses" while visiting the Butterfly Farm located near the Riu. It turns out this Giant Tree Nymph loves his after shave!

Their tour guide, Josh, did a wonderful job helping them to understand the life cycle of the butterfly and added to the fun experience they had visiting the Butterfly Farm! □



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SPORTS



In this April 14, 2005, file photo, Washington Nationals manager Frank Robinson tips his hat to the crowd as he is introduced during their home opener against the Arizona Diamondbacks, at RFK Stadium in Washington.

Associated Press

Frank Robinson, baseball's fearsome trailblazer, dies at 83

By DAVID GINSBURG and BEN WALKER

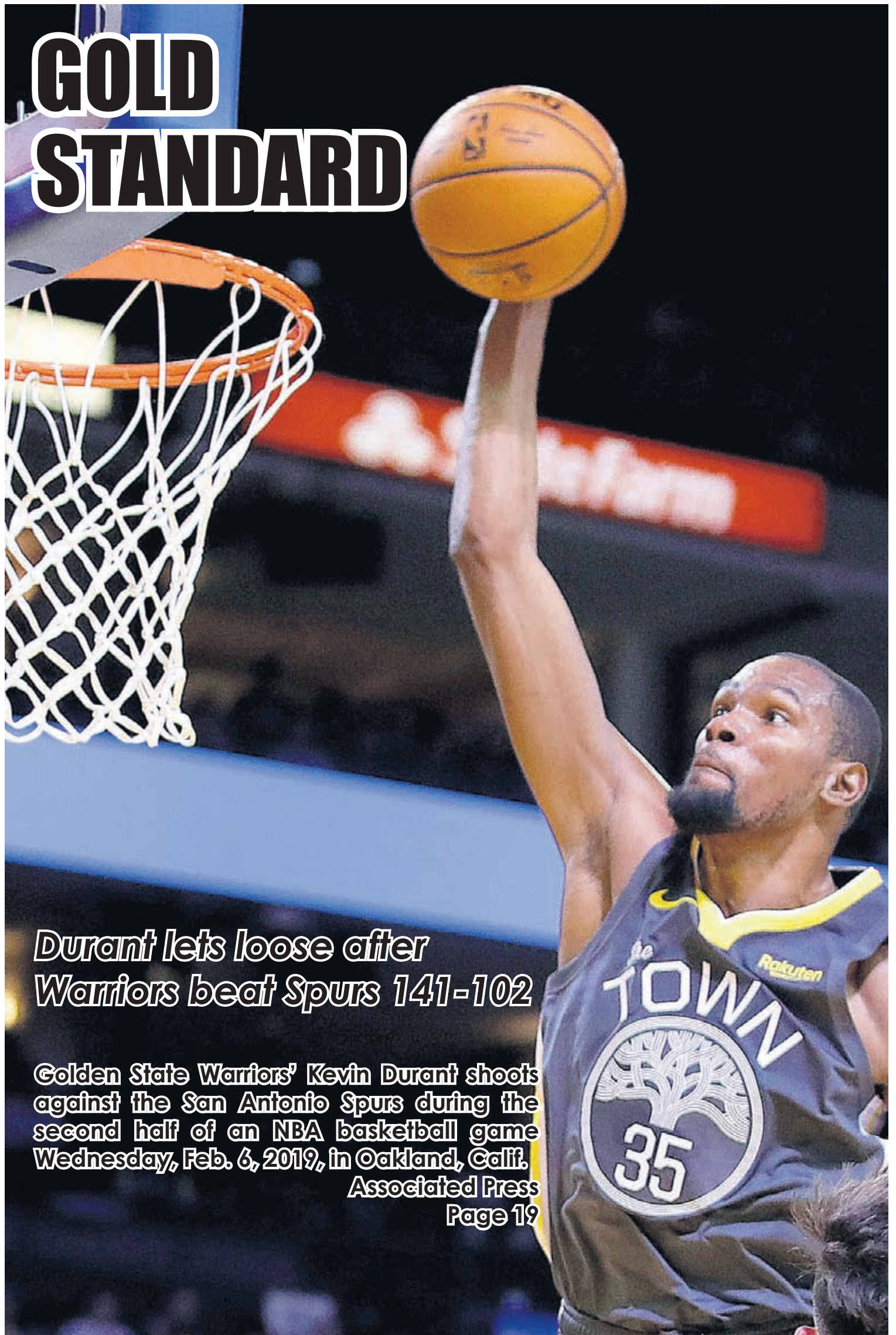
AP Sports Writers

Crowding the plate, fearless and fearless, Frank Robinson hammered his way into the Hall of Fame. His legacy, however, was cemented that day in 1975 when he simply stood in the dugout at old Cleveland Stadium — the first black manager in Major League Baseball.

Robinson, the only player to earn the MVP award in both leagues and a Triple Crown winner, died Thursday at 83. He had been in failing health and in hospice care at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles. MLB said he was with family and friends at the time.

Continued on Page 23

GOLD STANDARD



Durant lets loose after Warriors beat Spurs 141-102

Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant shoots against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press
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East contenders make their moves, Davis has to wait for his

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Basketball Writer

Toronto, Milwaukee and Philadelphia made their moves. Anthony Davis will have to wait until the summer for his.

The New Orleans Pelicans held onto Davis but dealt Nikola Mirotic to the Bucks, one of the Eastern Conference contenders who fortified their teams Thursday before the NBA trade deadline.

The Raptors are getting former All-Star center Marc Gasol from Memphis. The 76ers, a day after acquiring forward Tobias Harris from the Clippers, sent Markelle Fultz to Orlando and will hope Jonathan Simmons can provide some production where the former No. 1 pick couldn't.

"Those teams were already really good. And the assumption would only be that they'd only benefit from those moves," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "It will be quite a challenge. As we knew it would be."

All the trades were confirmed to The Associated Press by people with knowledge of the details because they couldn't be announced before they were approved by the NBA.

A busy swap season that included Dallas' acquisition of Kristaps Porzingis from



In this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018 file photo, New Orleans Pelicans forward Nikola Mirotic (3) looks to pass the ball over Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul (3) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Houston.

New York ended without a move for Davis, the player who dominated the discussion in recent weeks. The Pelicans didn't find a deal for Davis, who had requested a trade and informed the team he wouldn't sign a contract extension this summer.

But the Lakers couldn't put together a strong enough package to the Pelicans' liking for the All-Star forward, who will go back

into the trade market after the season ends. There will be other marquee names available then with a free agent class that could be highlighted by players such as Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and Kawhi Leonard.

Boston didn't jump into the trading deadline fray but may try to get involved in the summer.

For now, the Celtics appear to feel they have enough to win the East.

The other conference contenders looked for upgrades — and went out and got some that likely will fit well.

Milwaukee (40-13) already has the NBA's best record and Mirotic's outside-shooting ability for a big man would appear to fit perfectly in a lineup around superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Two games back of the Bucks, the Raptors sent

center Jonas Valanciunas to Memphis to acquire Gasol. Valanciunas had been coming off the bench and Toronto coach Nick Nurse will have to decide whether he uses Gasol in the same manner, or returns to a traditional bigger lineup with the former defensive player of the year in the middle.

"(Gasol) is one of the best fives in the league for a long time now, perennial All-Star, Defensive Player of the Year," Raptors guard Fred VanVleet said. "Just really excited to see how we can acclimate him to what we do and see how much he can give us a boost. Obviously we're very excited about that."

The 76ers have made two major trades during the season, previously getting Jimmy Butler from Minnesota before the deal to bring in Harris, Boban Marjanovic and forward Mike Scott.

"We understand the team invested a lot in us," Harris said. "It was a big move. It was a win-now move. That means a lot. This is already a winning culture and we look to bring our games to it and help as best we can." All of those clubs feel they improved their chances to be the first East team to reach the NBA Finals without LeBron James since 2010. □



Bob Stoops speaks after being introduced as the new head coach and general manager of the XFL Dallas football team during a news conference in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019.

Associated Press

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Bob Stoops initially rejected the idea of coming out of

retirement to join the reincarnation of the XFL.

Then the former Oklahoma coach had time to think about all the extra time in

Ex-Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops back with XFL's Dallas team

his schedule roughly a year and a half after he stepped away from the Sooners after 18 seasons.

Add a little arm twisting from league commissioner and former college administrator Oliver Luck and a chat with XFL benefactor Vince McMahon, and Stoops decided he was ready to get back in football. The 58-year-old Stoops was named coach and general manager of the Dallas franchise on Thursday at the home of baseball's Texas Rangers. A re-configured Globe Life Park will be the home field for

Dallas when the XFL debuts in the spring of 2020, about the same time the Rangers move across the street to a new ballpark. "When I stepped away a couple of years ago, one of my major reasons, and I made it very clear, is I wanted my own time," Stoops said of his abrupt retirement in June 2017, just three months before the start of the season. "As the only saying goes, be careful what you wish for. All of a sudden, I got to thinking after a couple of years, some days I've got too much time on my hands. You start to look at

what are your options."

The XFL is returning after an ill-fated single season in 2001 before the league disbanded. McMahon has vowed to put more emphasis on football with his relaunch after the original league followed a theatrical model more suitable to his pro wrestling ventures. Stoops brushed off questions over why he would join a league that failed badly the first time around, and he wasn't very interested in whether his return fed speculation that he didn't leave the Sooners on his own terms. □

Giannis, Bucks drop 148 points on Wizards for 40th win

By The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 43 points, Eric Bledsoe had 22 points and 11 assists, and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Washington Wizards 148-129 on Wednesday night for their fifth consecutive victory.

The Bucks shot 60 percent (56 for 93) from the field and placed six players in double figures while becoming the first NBA team with 40 victories. Malcolm Brogdon had 18 points, and Khris Middleton finished with 16.

Washington trailed by as many as 25 in the first half, but closed to 120-113 on Chasson Randle's layup with 10:22 left.

Bledsoe helped finish off the Wizards with 10 points in a quick scoring flurry, including a dunk off a missed free throw by Antetokounmpo. He made a 3-pointer with 7:07 remaining to make it 138-118.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 30 points, and Thomas Bryant had 26. Jeff Green finished with 22 points for his fourth straight game with 20 or more.

WARRIORS 141, SPURS 102

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Durant had 23 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and Golden State ran away from San Antonio in the second and third quarters.

The two-time defending champions scored 49 points on 16 assists in the third quarter alone, making 5 of 7 3-pointers. They made 24 of 25 field goals in one blistering stretch spanning halftime — including 14 straight shots at one point.

Klay Thompson scored 26 points for Golden State, and Stephen Curry finished with 19 points, seven assists, five rebounds, two steals and a blocked shot.

Patty Mills scored 16 points with four 3s for San Antonio in the first game of a back-to-back. LaMarcus Aldridge and DeMar DeRozan got the night off.

MAVERICKS 99, HORNETS 93

DALLAS (AP) — Luka Doncic scored 19 points in his third triple-double, Dorian



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo drives past Washington Wizards' Jeff Green, front, and Trevor Ariza, middle, during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Finney-Smith had 15 points and 10 rebounds and new-look Dallas made another move by trading Harrison Barnes while beating Charlotte.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 12 points in his Dallas debut after the blockbuster deal that brought Kristaps Porzingis from the New York Knicks.

Barnes played into the third quarter before reports of a trade with Sacramento surfaced. He was on the bench but didn't play in the fourth quarter. Barnes scored seven of his 10 points in the third.

Kemba Walker had 30 points and 11 rebounds for the Hornets, who got swept by Dallas after losing to the Mavericks by 38 points at home about a month ago.

NETS 135, NUGGETS 130

NEW YORK (AP) — D'Angelo Russell had 27 points and 11 assists, and Brooklyn surpassed last season's win total by beating Denver.

Russell made six of the Nets' 19 3-pointers, one game after they made only five as a team in their poorest shooting performance of the season.

DeMarre Carroll added 18 points, 10 rebounds and

six assists for Brooklyn (29-27), which got two key injured players back and led by 21 points in ending a three-game skid. Joe Harris scored 17 points and Treveon Graham had 16, with four 3-pointers.

Nikola Jokic had 25 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in his 10th triple-double of the season for the Nuggets, who have lost two straight games to fall out of a tie for the Western Conference lead.

PELICANS 125, BULLS 120

CHICAGO (AP) — Julius Randle scored 31 points, and New Orleans beat

struggling Chicago with All-Star Anthony Davis watching from the bench.

Davis was healthy enough to return from a sprained left index finger that has sidelined him since Jan. 18. But the Pelicans opted to hold him out with Thursday's trade deadline approaching.

The six-time All-Star has made it known he wants out of New Orleans.

Randle scored 19 in a blistering fourth quarter and finished six points shy of his season high.

Jrue Holiday and Cheick Diallo each scored 18, and Chicago product Jahlil Okafor finished with 13 points.

Lauri Markkanen led Chicago with 30 points and 10 rebounds. Zach LaVine scored 28, and Kris Dunn added 18 points and eight assists.

ROCKETS 127, KINGS 101

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— James Harden made eight 3-pointers and scored 36 points, helping Houston beat Sacramento.

The Rockets won their third straight game, and they appeared to be on the verge of adding Iman Shumpert to their array of talented shooters. Gerald Green matched his season high with 25 points, and Eric Gordon scored 20 points. Houston, Sacramento and Cleveland were working on a trade that will most notably send Shumpert from the Kings to the Rockets.

Buddy Hield had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings.

JAZZ 116, SUNS 88

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Donovan Mitchell scored 21 points and Joe Ingles had a career-high 11 assists, leading Utah past Phoenix.

Rudy Gobert added 16 points and 12 rebounds as Utah won for the fifth time in seven games. Ingles and reserve Royce O'Neale each finished with 15 points. Phoenix committed 22 turnovers in its 12th straight loss. Josh Jackson matched his season high with 27 points, and DeAndre Ayton had 20 points and nine rebounds. □

DeAngelo gets deciding goal in shootout, Rangers beat Bruins

By VIN A. CHERWOOD

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Successful in his only previous shootout attempt, Tony DeAngelo tried the same approach. And he got the same result.

DeAngelo scored the decisive goal in the seventh round of the shootout and the New York Rangers rallied from two goals down in the third period to beat the Boston Bruins 4-3 on Wednesday night.

"I kind of did the same move as last time," said DeAngelo, who beat Jaroslav Halak with a forehand from the right side into the top right corner. "To come back, pick up two points coming back down two in the third is a big win for us." Mika Zibanejad, Kevin Hayes and Filip Chytil scored for New York and Alexandar Georgiev finished with 27 saves. The Rangers won for the second time in five games (2-2-1) after a stretch in which they won four of five.

"We gave them too many opportunities in the second period," New York coach David Quinn said. "We talked about we just go to move past that, we can't let that bad second period get in the way of the third period. ... We did



New York Rangers defenseman Tony DeAngelo (77) scores past Boston Bruins goaltender Jaroslav Halak during the shootout in an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Rangers won 4-3.

a pretty good job in the third." Danton Heinen, David Pastrnak and Patrice Bergeron scored for Boston, Brad Marchand had two assists, and Halak stopped 36 shots. The Bruins, who squandered a 3-1 lead in the second, had a two-game winning streak end, but earned a point for the fifth straight game (2-0-3). Zibanejad and Marchand each scored in the third round of the tiebreaker.

After DeAngelo gave the Rangers the edge, they won it when David Krejci missed on the Bruins' last attempt. That improved New York to 6-2 in shootouts this season.

Each team had chances as they alternated odd-man rushes in the 3-on-3 overtime, with Halak making a sensational save to deny Zibanejad with 1:06 left. Halak earlier thwarted Chytil in front. On the oth-

er end, Georgiev stopped Sean Kuraly's tip try with 1:23 to go. "We let it slip in the third," Bergeron said. "That's where it was played out. That game shouldn't be going to overtime." The Rangers pulled to 3-2 at 9:24 of the third when Jimmy Vesey sent a centering pass in front and Hayes poked it past Halak for his 12th. Chytil then tied it on a power play, knocking in the rebound of Pavel Buch-

nevich's slap shot from the left side with 7:19 left for his 10th. "We got the much-needed goals and kept working," Zibanejad said. "Had some good chances in overtime, and finished it off in a shootout. It was nice." Boston was down 1-0 after one period, but took the lead with three goals about 4 1/2 minutes apart in the second.

First, Matt Grzelcyk's slap shot from the left point deflected off Heinen and past Georgiev with 9:23 left. It was Heinen's seventh of the season.

Pastrnak then put Boston ahead with his 31st, deflecting a pass in front by Krejci into the right side with 8:11 remaining.

Bergeron, who played in his 1,000th game Tuesday night in a home victory over the Islanders, gave the Bruins a two-goal lead, tipping Torey Krug's pass in front for his 19th with 4:49 remaining. It was Boston's third power-play goal in 17 chances over the last six games.

The Rangers outshot the Bruins 12-8 in the first period. Zibanejad gave the Rangers a 1-0 lead on a one-timer from between the circles with 2:15 left in the opening period. It was his 22nd goal of the season, and 11th in the last 12 games. □

Associated Press

Rielly scores winner, Maple Leafs beat Senators 5-4

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto's victory over Ottawa was a little too back-and-forth for Maple Leafs coach Mike Babcock's liking.

"Way too entertaining for the coach," Babcock said. Morgan Rielly broke a tie midway through the third period and the Maple Leafs beat the Senators 5-4 on Wednesday night.

Rielly started a rush after an Ottawa turnover, passed to Zach Hyman, and took Hyman's backhand pass alone in front of the goal for his 14th of the season. It also was Rielly's career-high 53rd point.

"It's a blast playing with him," center John Tavares said.



Toronto Maple Leafs center Auston Matthews (34) scores on Ottawa Senators goaltender Craig Anderson (41) during the second period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, in Toronto.

Associated Press

"He's a great guy to go to battle with every day."

Toronto scored three goals in four minutes late in the second period to take a 4-2 lead.

Auston Matthews, fresh off news of a contract extension, scored to make it 3-2, and Mitch Marner set up goals by Andreas Johnsson and Tavares.

Thomas Chabot and Magnus Paajarvi scored for Ottawa early in the third to tie it.

"We were playing well and then we just got careless and we never really seemed to be able to get it back," Babcock said.

"At the same time when you're a good team and

you win games, sometimes they're not very pretty but you still won them."

Hyman opened the scoring for Toronto in the first, and Paajarvi tied it late in the period. Matt Duchene also scored for Ottawa.

"I thought we carried the play for most of the game," Ottawa coach Guy Boucher said. "Just a few puck management turnovers cost us."

Toronto won its third straight and handed Ottawa its fifth straight loss.

"It's the NHL," Matthews said.

"So it doesn't matter who you're playing on any given night. It doesn't matter what the standings are." □

Mickelson hits every fairway and starts well at Pebble

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Phil Mickelson has been coming to the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am since 1995 and has won it four times, so there isn't much he hasn't accomplished along the Monterey Peninsula. Thursday delivered something new.

Mickelson didn't miss a single fairway.

"History was made today," Mickelson said after his 6-under 65 at Monterey Peninsula, leaving him one shot behind Brian Gay and Scott Langley. "To the best of my knowledge, it's taken me 27 years and a few months to hit all fairways in a single round in competition. I may have done it before, but I don't ever recall doing it."

His accuracy was better than his memory.

According to the PGA Tour, Mickelson has done it seven times, most recently 21 years ago at Torrey Pines. Perhaps even more remarkable about that round in 1998 was that even playing from the short grass on every shot, he still had a 73. That wasn't the case on an ideal day — perhaps the last beautiful day of the week — for scoring. Over three rain-softened tracks — the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula, Spyglass Hill and Pebble Beach — 59 players in the 156-man field shot in the 60s.

And there was no shortage of entertainment, as usual. Brandt Snedeker probably wasn't thinking birdie when his tee shot on the par-5 18th at Pebble Beach missed left and bounced down to the sandy shore. He played it off the beach back to the fairway, hit 7-iron to 10 feet and made the putt for a 69.

"I didn't hit myself, I didn't fall down getting out of the rocks down there — it was a little slippery," Snedeker said. "So it all worked out great. I'm feeling like a genius right now, but at the time I didn't know."

Keith Mitchell hit a left-handed shot from a wooden bridge at Monterey Peninsula through the rough and onto the green that led to par and duly impressed his amateur partner, PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan.

Bill Murray kept everyone laughing even after his round, when a volunteer asked him to sign his cap. Murray noticed Pat Perez had already signed it, looked at the scribbling on the bill of the cap and said, "He misspelled his name."

And there was plenty of good golf along the way. Gay finished his front nine at Monterey Peninsula with five straight birdies. Langley, who shared low amateur honors in 2010 at Pebble Beach in the U.S. Open, made seven birdies in a 10-hole stretch in the middle



Phil Mickelson hits his approach shot from the second fairway of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club Shore Course during the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

of his round at Monterey Peninsula. He finished with a birdie that allowed him to tie Gay for the first-round lead.

Cody Gribble had a 6-under 66 at Spyglass Hill and Si Woo Kim had a 6-under 66 at Pebble Beach. The four scores at 6 under were at Monterey Peninsula, including Jason Day.

Dustin Johnson, not so fresh after his victory Sunday halfway around the world at the Saudi International, didn't look worse for the wear. He had a 5-under 66 at Monterey Peninsula, despite a few wobbly moments late when he bladed

a bunker shot on the 15th hole for his only bogey and drove into bushes and had to take a penalty drop on the par-5 16th, where he managed to save par.

He played in his usual group with hockey great Wayne Gretzky, Jordan Spieth and country singer Jake Owen. Spieth chipped in for birdie and made plenty others to join Johnson at 66.

It wasn't easy for everyone. Defending champion Ted Potter Jr. made two birdies on his opening nine holes at Spyglass and still shot 42. The next nine were not much better and his 82 matched his high score on

the PGA Tour.

Ho Sung Choi, the South Korean who has become a video sensation with the gyrations he makes after his swing, played alongside Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who greeted him with "hello" in Korean.

And now the real work begins.

A few clouds began to arrive from the Pacific, with more on the way. The forecast is for rain and wind at various points over the next two days, perhaps into Sunday. The starting times were moved up an hour on Friday. □

Panama rallies to beat reigning champion Puerto Rico

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP)

— Pinch-hitter Jilton Calderon hit a go-ahead two-run double in the top of the ninth inning and Panama rallied from a five-run deficit to beat Puerto Rico 8-7 on Wednesday night for its second win in the Caribbean Series.

Two-time reigning champion Puerto Rico led 6-1 after six innings, but the Panamanians scored four runs in the seventh and finished the comeback in the ninth. Calderon hit a line drive to left field, bringing home



Players of Panama's Los Toros de Herrera celebrate runs by teammate Allen Cordoba and Elmer Reyes during the eighth inning against Puerto Rico's Cangrejeros de Santurce at the Caribbean Series baseball tournament at Rod Carew stadium in Panama City, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

Jonathan Galvez and Rodrigo Orozco to make it 7-6. Calderon scored on a single by Allen Cordoba to make it 8-6. David Vidal had an RBI single with one out in the bottom of the ninth as Puerto Rico tried to come back, but Manny Corpas got the last two outs in the ninth inning for the save.

The Toros de Herrera, from Panama, are 2-0 in the Series. The Estrellas Orientales, from The Dominican Republic, are 1-1, and Puerto Rico is 0-2.

In the first game, Wilfredo

Boscan had a strong outing and Venezuela got its second victory in the tournament by beating Cuba 1-0. Boscan allowed three hits and no runs in 6 2/3 innings for the the Cardenales de Lara, who are in first place in Group A. The Cuban team, Leneros de Las Tunas, are second at 1-1m and Mexico is last with at 0-2. Venezuela was the host nation for this year's championship, but the Caribbean Professional Baseball Leagues decided to move it to Panama for security reasons. □

Wave of concussion lawsuits to test NCAA's liability

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NCAA is facing more than 300 lawsuits from former college football players who claim their concussions were mistreated, leading to medical problems spanning from headaches to depression and, in some cases, early onset Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease.

The first wave of lawsuits hit college sports' major governing body in 2016 and more than 200 more were filed recently by Edelson PC, a Chicago-based firm that focuses on class-action cases, and Raizner Slania LLP in Houston. Most of the cases were filed in the U.S. Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

The sheer volume of the cases seems daunting, but experts say those seeking damages akin to the NFL's billion-dollar settlement with its former players have a challenging argument to make.

"These are very difficult cases," said Gabe Feldman, director of Tulane University's sports law program. "They're difficult because in many of the cases the plaintiff is clearly suffering and the plaintiff has clearly suffered harm. But the challenge is proving that the NCAA, the member institu-



This is an April 25, 2018, file photo, showing NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis.

tion or the conference or some combination caused that harm and had some legal duty to the plaintiff and breached that duty. Each factor of the analysis could be difficult for the plaintiff to prove. Perhaps the most difficult is the causation piece."

The concussion claims come as the NCAA awaits a federal judge's ruling in an antitrust case that challenges the association's right to cap compensation to football and basketball players at the value of an athletic scholarship. That case is pending in federal

court in California.

Jay Edelson, a lead attorney in the latest concussions effort, has been pursuing personal injury damages for former college athletes for several years. Edelson was part of a previous concussion case against the NCAA that resulted in a \$75 million settlement. The NCAA agreed to pay \$70 million toward medical monitoring for former college athletes, another \$5 million toward medical research and payments of up to \$5,000 toward individual players who claimed injuries. The

Associated Press

settlement included an agreement that a large personal injury class-action lawsuits could not be brought against the NCAA, but individual lawsuits were permitted on a per school basis.

Edelson has criticized that settlement and some of the plaintiffs, including former Eastern Illinois defensive back Adrian Arrington who initiated the case, have fought against its approval in court.

Arrington is among the hundreds of former college football players now bringing personal injury claims

against the NCAA, college conferences and, in some cases, individual schools. Many public universities cannot be sued under state sovereignty laws. Most private universities such as Southern California and Notre Dame are not protected by such laws.

Last year, three days into a trial, the NCAA reached a settlement with Debra Hardin-Ploetz, the widow of former Texas football player Greg Ploetz, who played defense for the Longhorns in the late 1960s. The case was not related to the 300-plus concussion lawsuits, but Jay Edelson said the result was encouraging.

"That case that was tried in Texas, was really in the heart of football country. So our view is it was one of the most difficult jurisdictions to get a really great jury verdict," Edelson told AP.

"Even with that, once the affirmative evidence was put on by the plaintiffs, the NCAA settled. We think that is a big statement because our view is if they realize that they can't allow a jury to decide it in the heart of football country, where is their safe haven?"

In a statement to the AP, NCAA chief legal officer Donald Remy said the NCAA is undaunted by the recent filings. □

Russian race walker Kirdyapkina banned for doping



In this file photo dated Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, Russia's Anisya Kirdyapkina crosses the finish line to place third in the Women's 20km Race Walk at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea.

Associated Press

By **JAMES ELLINGWORTH**

AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian race walker Anisya Kirdyapkina, a two-time world championship medalist, has been banned for using performance-enhancing drugs, further dismantling one of the most successful doping programs in history.

Kirdyapkina was the only athlete from Russia's nine-person Olympic walk team in 2012 never to have served a ban despite multiple investigations into organized doping involving her coach, her teammates and her gold medal-winning husband, Sergei.

The Russian track federation said Thursday that Kirdyapkina was banned for three years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport after her blood data showed signs of doping. She will have to cease her coaching career and is disqualified from second-

place finishes from the 2011 and 2013 world championships.

Kirdyapkina originally took the bronze in 2011 but was elevated to second when the winner, Russian teammate Olga Kaniskina, was banned for doping. Kirdyapkina's 2011 silver is set to pass to Elisa Rigaud of Italy, the original fourth-place finisher, while Liu Hong of China is in line to inherit the 2013 medal.

Kirdyapkina has also been disqualified from her fifth-place finish at the 2012 Olympics. Russian teammate Elena Lashmanova is still officially considered the winner of that race, though she was banned in 2014 in another doping case.

Athletes from the Russian walk team's Saransk training center won nine Olympic and 18 world championship medals from 2004-16, but head coach Viktor Chegin has since been banned for life. □



This is a May 19, 1966, file photo showing Baltimore Orioles' Frank Robinson at bat.

Associated Press

Frank Robinson

Continued from Page 17

"Frank Robinson's resume in our game is without parallel, a trailblazer in every sense, whose impact spanned generations," Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement.

Robinson hit 586 home runs — he was fourth on the career list behind only Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth and Willie Mays when he retired and now ranks 10th. An MVP with Cincinnati and Baltimore, he led the Orioles to their first World Series championship in 1966.

"Frank Robinson and I were more than baseball buddies. We were friends. Frank was a hard-nosed baseball player who did things on the field that people said could never be done," Aaron posted on Twitter.

"Baseball will miss a tremendous human being," he said.

An All-Star outfielder in 12 seasons and a first-ballot selection to Cooperstown, Robinson also was a Rookie of the Year, a Gold Glove outfielder and a bruising runner.

But his place in the sport's history extended far beyond the batter's box and basepaths.

Robinson fulfilled his quest to become the first African-American manager in the big leagues when he was hired by the Cleveland Indians. His impact was immediate and memorable. The Indians opened at home that year and Robinson, still active, batted himself second as the designated hitter. In the first inning, he homered off Doc

Medich and the crowd went crazy, cheering the whole April afternoon as Cleveland beat the Yankees.

The Reds, Orioles and Indians have retired his No. 20 and honored him with statues at their stadiums.

Robinson later managed San Francisco, Baltimore and Montreal. He became the first manager of the Washington Nationals after the franchise moved from Montreal for the 2005 season — the Nationals put him in their Ring of Honor.

More than half the major league teams have had black managers since his debut with Cleveland.

Robinson later spent several years working as an executive for MLB and for a time oversaw the annual Civil Rights Game. He advocated for more minorities throughout baseball and worked with former Commissioner Bud Selig to develop the Selig Rule, directing teams to interview at least one minority candidate before hiring a new manager.

For all he did on and off the field, Robinson was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by George W. Bush in 2005.

Hall of Fame manager Joe Torre played against and worked with Robinson for years.

"He was a tough nut," Torre recalled at the owners' meetings in Orlando, Florida. "He never lost that feistiness, which puts a smile on your face ... He was always that guy that commanded a lot of respect and he had a presence about him."



In this Nov. 9, 2005, file photo, President Bush awards baseball legend Frank Robinson the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Born Aug. 21, 1935, in Beaumont, Texas, Robinson attended McClymonds High School in Oakland, California, and was a basketball teammate of future NBA great Bill Russell. But it was on the diamond, rather than court, where fame awaited Robinson.

Former Orioles pitcher Jim Palmer, who also gained first-ballot entry into the Hall, once called Robinson, "the best player I ever saw."

Starting out in an era when Mays, Aaron, Mickey Mantle and Ted Williams were the big hitters, Robinson more than held his own over 21 seasons — if anything, many who watched Robinson felt he never got his full due as an all-time great. He finished with 1,812 RBIs and hit .294 — he played in the World Series five times, and homered in each of them.

Robinson was the only player to hit a ball completely out of old Memorial Stadium in Baltimore and once connected for grand slams in consecutive innings of a game. But he didn't just slug away, as evidenced by a .389 on-base average boosted by 1,420 walks against 1,532 strikeouts. Extremely alert on the bases, he had 204 steals.

Robinson played the game with grace, yet was known

as fierce competitor who combined hard work with natural talent. He planted himself near the plate, yielding to no pitcher, and didn't seem to care about being brushed back or getting hit by a pitch 198 times. "Pitchers did me a favor when they knocked me down," Robinson said. "It made me more determined. I wouldn't let that pitcher get me out."

And opposing pitchers noticed.

"Frank Robinson might have been the best I ever saw at turning his anger into runs. He challenged you physically as soon as he stepped into the batter's box, with half his body hanging over the plate," Hall ace Bob Gibson once wrote. "As a rule, I'm reluctant to express admiration for hitters, but I make an exception for Frank Robinson," Gibson wrote.

Robinson carried a similar philosophy as a baserunner, unapologetically sliding spikes high whenever necessary.

"The baselines belong to the runner, and whenever I was running the bases, I always slid hard," Robinson declared.

Robinson broke in with a bang as a 20-year-old big leaguer. He tied the first-year record with 38 home runs for Cincinnati in 1956,

scored a league-high 122 times and was voted NL Rookie of the Year.

Robinson was the 1961 NL MVP after batting .323 with 37 homers and 124 RBIs for the pennant-winning Reds, and reached career highs in runs (134) and RBIs (136) in 1962.

All-time hits leader Pete Rose joined the Reds the next year.

"He had a huge influence on me when I first came up in '63," Rose told The Associated Press by phone.

"Frank was a really aggressive, hard-nosed player, and it rubbed off on everybody. Frank was the one who took me under his wings, so to speak. ... Frank consistently talked to me about playing the game the right way," he said.

Robinson was an All-Star, too, in 1965, but Reds owner Bill DeWitt decided Robinson was an old-ish 30 and time to make a move.

That December, Robinson was the centerpiece in what would ultimately be one of the most lopsided trades in baseball history, going to Baltimore for pitchers Milt Pappas and Jack Baldschun and outfielder Dick Simpson.

Robinson became an instant hit with the Orioles in 1966 as the unanimous AL MVP and a Triple Crown winner. □

Spotify takes a big jump into the podcasting game

By MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Spotify is making a bigger bet on podcasts as it looks to bring a Netflix-like model of original programs to the audio world. The music-streaming pioneer gobbled up two podcasting companies, Gimlet and Anchor, on Wednesday.

Although streaming is becoming an increasingly popular way to listen to music, Spotify and other services such as Pandora have struggled to make



In this Oct. 3, 2018, file photo a Garmin International employee shows the new Spotify app on his smartphone integrated with his Garmin fenix 5 Plus watch during a presentation in New York.

Associated Press

money because of the royalties and other fees that they have to pay recording labels, songwriters and performers.

The acquisitions are about "expanding our mission from just being about music to being about all of audio and being the world's leading audio platform," CEO Daniel Ek said in an interview on CNBC on Wednesday.

The company didn't disclose terms, but The Wall Street Journal cited people familiar with the transactions as saying Anchor, a podcast production and hosting platform, was val-

ued at more than \$150 million and Gimlet at more than \$200 million. Gimlet produces high-end podcasts and was co-founded by Alex Blumberg, a veteran of the NPR radio show "This American Life."

Spotify, which is based in Stockholm and went public in April 2018, charges \$10 a month for its "premium" ad-free music service. It also offers a free ad-supported service.

Apple has become Spotify's primary rival since the tech giant launched its own music streaming service in 2015. But although it has been outgunned fi-

nancially, Spotify has been able to stay a step ahead of Apple in terms of subscribers. It counted 96 million subscribers in the fourth quarter, up 36 percent from a year ago.

Meanwhile, Apple's music-streaming service has more than 50 million subscribers, according to CEO Tim Cook. Pandora, YouTube, iHeartRadio, Google, Amazon and others also offer music streaming and podcasts.

In a blog post Wednesday, Ek said that Spotify has become the second-biggest podcasting platform in less than two years.

"The format is really evolving and while podcasting is still a relatively small business today, I see incredible growth potential for the space and for Spotify in particular," he wrote.

There are many ways to listen to most podcasts — among them, streaming services, downloads and podcast-specific apps like Castbox and Stitcher for Podcasts. It wasn't clear if Spotify will distribute its new podcasts exclusively, make them widely available, or choose some intermediate step such as allowing other services to distribute them following a window of Spotify exclusivity. Spotify did not return a request for comment.

Spotify is seeking ways to become sustainably profitable. The company reported a surprise fourth-quarter profit on Wednesday, boosted by a strong holiday season and a promotion with Google Home. But it forecast a loss for 2019 even as it continues to invest in original content.

Spotify has already produced some original podcasts, including one series with comedian Amy Schumer and another with rapper and broadcaster Joe Budden.

Ek said people who listen to podcasts through Spotify spend twice as much time on the service than other users. □

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Apple releases update to prevent FaceTime eavesdropping

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple has released an iPhone update to fix a FaceTime flaw that allowed people to eavesdrop on others while using its group video chat feature.

The repair is included in the latest version of Apple's iOS 12 system, which became available to install Thursday.

The bug enabled interlopers to turn an iPhone into a live microphone while using Group FaceTime.

Apple turned off the group chat feature last week, after a 14-year-old boy in Tucson, Arizona, discovered the flaw. The teenager, Grant Thompson, and his mother said they unsuccessfully tried to contact the company about the problem for more than a week.

The delay in responding to the flaw raised questions about Apple's handling of it. The company has since promised to be more responsive.

Although the FaceTime bug has now been addressed, its emergence is particularly embarrassing for Apple. The bug exposed Apple customers to potential surveillance at a time that CEO Tim Cook has been repeatedly declaring that personal privacy is a "fundamental human right." □



In this Jan. 31, 2019, file photo Grant Thompson and his mother, Michele, look at an iPhone in the family's kitchen in Tucson, Ariz., on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

Associated Press

Ouch! Some business owners may be shocked by lost tax breaks

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As small business owners compile their income tax returns, they may have an unpleasant surprise — some popular business deductions have disappeared or been reduced under the new tax law.

While the law gave small business owners new tax breaks including a 20 percent deduction in income for many sole proprietors, partners and owners of S corporations, Congress took back deductions for entertainment expenses, employee transit benefits and what are called net operating loss carrybacks. It also put ceilings on interest deductions for some businesses. Accountants and tax attorneys suspect small business clients to especially miss the break for entertaining clients and customers.

"I think they're going to be shocked at how much more they didn't get as a deduction," says Joseph Perry, a certified public accountant with Marcum in Melville, New York.

A look at the disappearing deductions:

INTEREST

There is now a limit on how much interest businesses can deduct on their loans and credit lines. While the smallest businesses, those with up to \$25 million in average annual revenue over the previous three years, have no ceiling on the interest they can deduct, there are many small businesses above that threshold that are being affected. IRS regulations limit the deduction to 30 percent of a company's adjusted tax-



In this March 4, 2015 file photo, a fan eats a hot dog before a spring training exhibition baseball game between the Chicago White Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

able income plus its interest income, if it has any. A motor vehicle dealer can also deduct its borrowing costs for the vehicles it buys and then sells — what's known as floor plan financing interest.

But interest expenses that are above the limit can be carried over and deducted the next year; they will count toward that year's ceiling. And real property businesses including landlords, developers and real estate managers and brokers can choose to be exempt from the deduction if they follow rules on depreciation of their property.

ENTERTAINMENT

Owners who take customers to sporting events or the theater or treat them to a round of golf will have to foot the entire bill for those activities. The new law has done away with the entertainment deduction for

businesses. Many owners use entertainment as a key part of building and maintaining relationships with clients.

But owners can still deduct the cost of taking a client out for breakfast, lunch or dinner; half the amount spent for a business meal is deductible. The IRS also says owners can buy food for a customer at an entertainment event as long as the food is paid for separately. In a notice about meals and entertainment expenses issued in October, the agency used hot dogs at a baseball game as an example. The food is

deductible; the tickets are not.

Owners can also deduct 100 percent of the cost of food at parties or picnics for employees.

While the loss of the entertainment deduction may discourage some owners from treating customers to tickets or a golf game, others will decide that paying for entertainment is a worthwhile investment in their companies' future because of the goodwill it creates. That's good business sense, says Ken Rubin, a CPA with Rubin Brown in St. Louis.

"Normally, our general

statement is, don't let tax considerations drive the business decisions," Rubin says. Or, as tax advisers sometimes tell their clients: Don't let the tax tail wag the dog.

EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

The law also eliminated the deduction owners could take for subsidizing their employees' commuting costs. Similar to their decisions about entertainment expenses, owners must decide whether they want to continue giving employees money toward their mass transit fares or parking tabs; given the tight labor market, owners might want to continue providing the benefits to make their companies better able to compete for talented workers. And taking the benefit away could be a morale-buster, says Leon Dutkiewicz, a CPA with Citrin Cooperman in Philadelphia. "When you run the math, you're going to lose more in goodwill than you would from losing the deduction," he says. □

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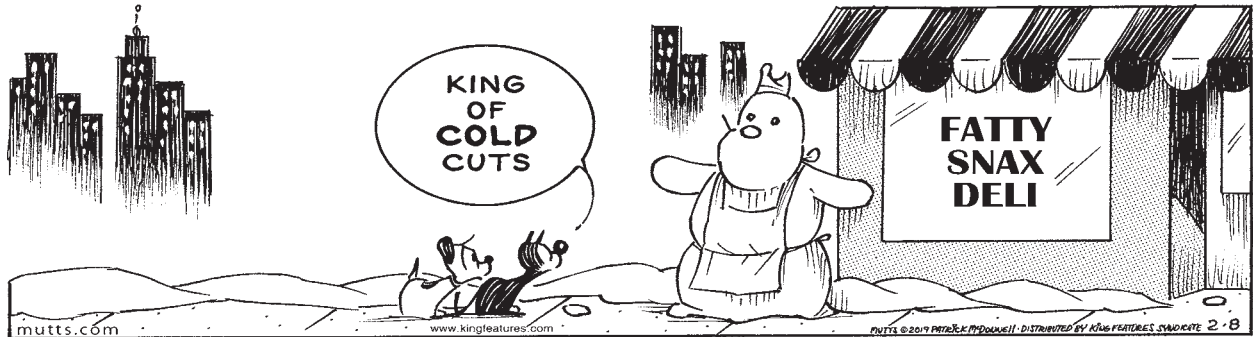
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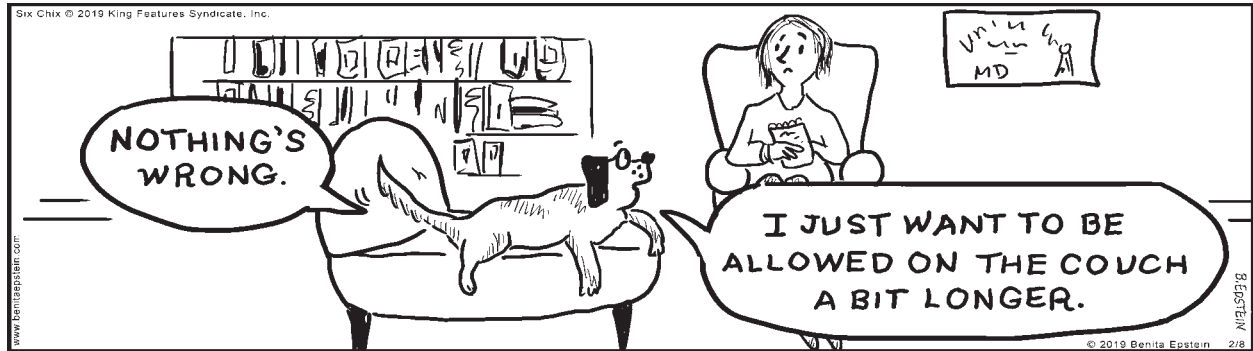
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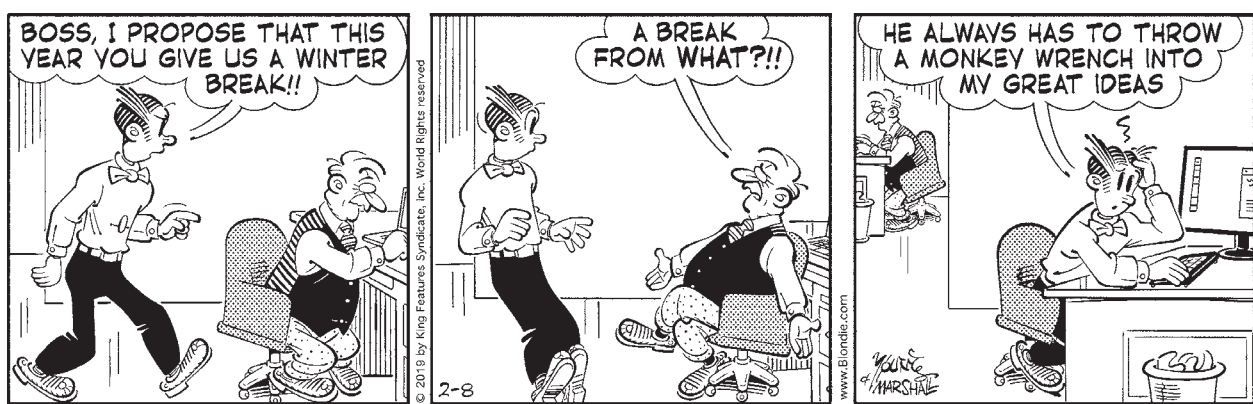
Mutts



6 Chix



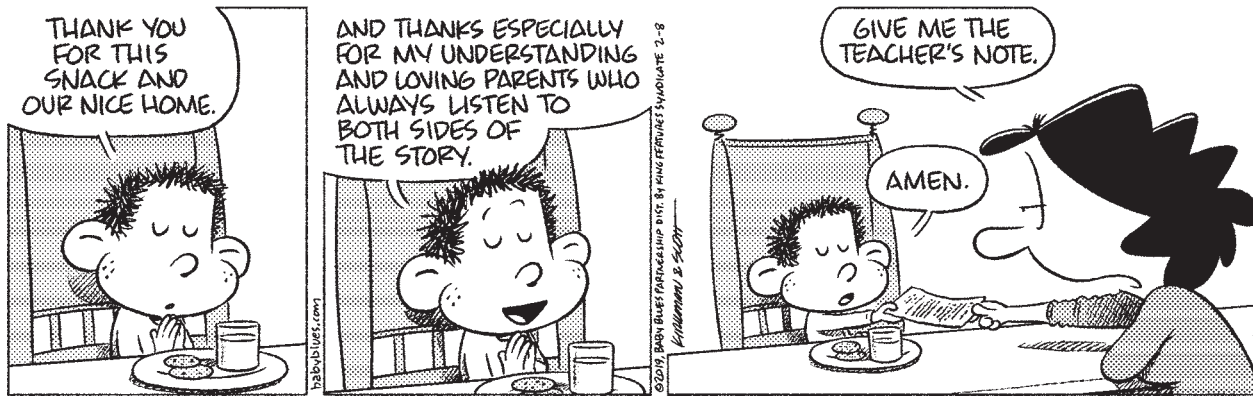
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	1			3	2		
9		4		6		8	
	2		1				6
		7	2				5
	3					9	
4				5	6		
6				7		1	
	9			5		4	7
		3	6			2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/08

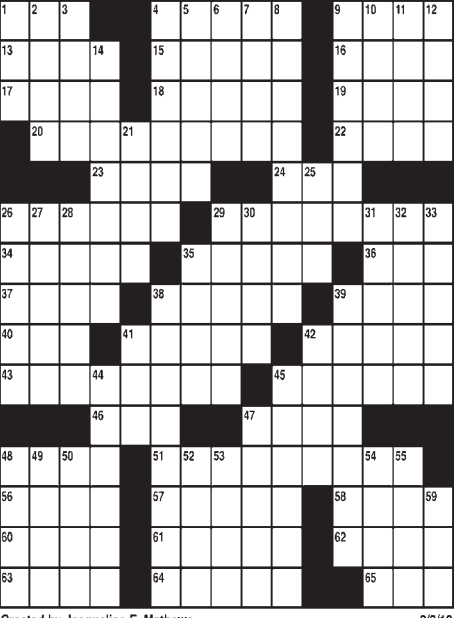
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	2	1	6	4	5	3	8	7
8	4	6	7	2	3	5	9	1
5	3	7	9	8	1	2	6	4
3	6	8	1	9	7	4	2	5
2	7	9	5	6	4	1	3	8
1	5	4	8	3	2	6	7	9
4	9	2	3	5	8	7	1	6
7	8	5	2	1	6	9	4	3
6	1	3	4	7	9	8	5	2

ACROSS

- 1 Marsh
- 4 Meat stock jelly
- 9 Flows back
- 13 Cheese in red wax
- 15 "We ___ Overcome"
- 16 Classic board game
- 17 Sculptor's tool
- 18 Early decal brand
- 19 Golfer's focus
- 20 Inane
- 22 Nocturnal birds
- 23 Carry
- 24 Gardening tool
- 26 Pulsates
- 29 Lively parties
- 34 Periods of time
- 35 Steam bath
- 36 Crash into
- 37 Up in __; furious
- 38 "A ___ of beauty is a joy forever"
- 39 Facts & figures
- 40 Wedding words
- 41 Main part of a tree
- 42 Provide food for a banquet
- 43 Police officer's title
- 45 Woods
- 46 Dashed off
- 47 Seabird
- 48 Entreaty
- 51 ___ up; going separate ways
- 56 Four-wheeled ATV
- 57 Native New Zealander
- 58 AM/PM divider
- 60 Uncommon
- 61 Know-___; smart aleck
- 62 Actor Hackman
- 63 NBA team
- 64 On edge
- 65 Actor Ayres



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 2/8/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

WIG	OSCAR	METS
VANE	PLACE	OAHU
ADAM	POSTPARTUM	
TIC	BOOTS	LISSO
CLASP	ILL	
BRUISE	PRIEST	
EARNIS	SHAKE	HUG
SCAT	SPECS	MAMA
SET	APART	HITOR
DEADEN	GENTRY	
BUD	LUNGE	
ABDUL	FLOES	RIB
BOISTEROUS	LINE	
ONCE	FEAST	ENCE
YAKS	GENES	AGA

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DOWN

- 1 Arthur of TV
- 2 Chances

- 3 Long look
- 4 Valuables
- 5 Layered rock
- 6 Window piece
- 7 Varieties; types
- 8 Conflicting; crossing swords
- 9 Resounded
- 10 ___ up; inflate
- 11 Male animal
- 12 Observes
- 14 Trusted counselors
- 21 Boo-hoos
- 25 "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"
- 26 Bangkok folks
- 27 Teeming crowd
- 28 Bit of gossip
- 29 Actress Eva Marie ___
- 30 Good-looking young man
- 31 Very angry
- 32 Microsoft's Bill
- 33 Brainy
- 35 Give the cold shoulder to
- 38 Send electronically
- 39 Term of affection
- 41 Afternoon social
- 42 Young animal
- 44 A- and C+
- 45 In vain
- 47 Misses
- 48 File drawer, perhaps
- 49 Kauai feast
- 50 Make money
- 52 Cracker spread
- 53 Mortgage, for one
- 54 Christmas song
- 55 No longer here
- 59 ___ Mexico

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Divi Village

1 BR WK # 8 & 9
21 & 25 weeks remain
\$9000 each
Divi links Golf
1 BR WK# 8 & 9
27 weeks remain
\$9000 each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 6
2 sd Floor Front Villas
28 weeks remain \$12,500
Studio WK # 7 \$7500
11 th Floor 17 week remain
1 BR WK # 8 \$16,000
building 6 4th floor
29 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$9000
4th Floor Harbor view
1 BR WK # 11 \$8000
3rd Floor Garden view
1 BR Wk # 12 \$9000
3rd floor pool/ocean view
1 BR DLX Wk 13&14 \$9000
each
5th floor ocean front

Tropicana Resort

1 BR WK # 5,6,7,8
Ground floor \$7000 each
1 BR WK 7 & 8 \$7000 each
Dutch Village
1 BR WK 8 \$8500
24 weeks remain

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Aruba Divi Phoenix

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23 February 2 March 2019
Divi Links Golf
Studio WK #8 \$1500
23 February 2 March 2019

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The Mill Resorts and Suites
1 br wk # 4 \$7000

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR Penthouse WK # 11 & 12
Building 9 the 7th floor
27 weeks remain \$25K each

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 11 & 12
26 weeks remain each
\$9000 each
Studio Wk 11
26 weeks remain \$8000

Marriott Surf Club

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2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27,000
3 BR Ocean View \$26,000

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3BEDROM \$26k
*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

GOLD Season

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1B OV \$10k

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February 8

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The Government of Aruba officially
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1st, 2019. Sanctions will apply from
January 1st, 2020.

Tests suggest scientists achieved 1st 'in body' gene editing



In this Monday, Nov. 13, 2017 file photo, Brian Madeux, starts to receive the first human gene editing therapy for Hunter syndrome, as his girlfriend, Marcie Humphrey, left, applauds at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, Calif.

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP Chief Medical Writer

Scientists think they have achieved the first gene editing inside the body, altering DNA in adults to try to treat a disease, although it's too soon to know if this will help.

Preliminary results suggest that two men with a rare disorder now have a corrective gene at very low levels, which may not be enough to make the therapy a success.

Still, it's a scientific milestone toward one day doctoring DNA to treat many diseases caused by faulty genes.

"This is a first step," said Dr. Joseph Muenzer of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who helped test the treatment. "It's just not potent enough."

He gave the results Thursday at a conference in Orlando, Florida, and has consulted for the therapy's maker, California-based Sangamo Therapeutics. Researchers are working on a stronger version of the treatment.

Gene editing is intended as a more precise way to do gene therapy, to disable a bad gene or supply a good one that's missing. Trying it in adults to treat

diseases is not controversial and the DNA changes do not pass to future generations, unlike the recent case of a Chinese scientist who claims to have edited twin girls' genes when they were embryos.

Sangamo's studies involve men with Hunter or Hurler syndrome, diseases caused by a missing gene that makes an enzyme to break down certain sugar compounds. Without it, sugars build up and damage organs, often killing people in their teens.

In 2017, Brian Madeux of Arizona became the first person to try it. Through an IV, he received many copies of a corrective gene and an editing tool called zinc finger nucleases to insert it into his DNA.

Results on him and seven other Hunter patients, plus three with Hurler syndrome, suggest the treatment is safe, which was the main goal of these early experiments. Three problems

— bronchitis, an irregular heartbeat and a hernia — were deemed due to the diseases, not the treatment.

Tissue samples showed evidence of gene editing at very low levels in two Hunter patients who were given a middle dose but not in one given a low dose. Tests are expected later this year on patients who received the highest dose and on Hurler patients.

Blood tests detected slightly higher levels of the missing enzyme in a few of the Hunter patients but none of them reached normal levels. One patient had a larger increase but also showed signs that his immune system might be attacking the therapy. He was treated for that and symptoms resolved. More encouraging results were seen in Hurler patients — enzyme levels rose to normal in all three after treatment, tests on certain blood cells showed.

"This is very promising" for

Hurler patients, said Dr. Paul Hartz of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, who presented those results. None of the patients with either disease showed a sustained decline in urine levels of the troubling sugar compounds, though, and some other tests also did not detect intended effects of the therapy.

The key test will be stopping the patients' weekly enzyme treatments to see if their bodies can now make enough of it on their own. Three have gone off treatments so far and one was recently advised to resume them because of fatigue and rising levels of the sugar compounds. The others have not been off long enough to know how they will fare. "It looks like it's safe ... that's a very positive sign," said one independent expert, Dr. Kiran Musunuru of the University of Pennsylvania. He called the early results promising but said "it's hard to be sure it's doing any good" until patients are studied longer.

"What they're trying to do with gene editing is very challenging," he said. "It's much harder to make a correction or insert a gene" than to disable one.

Dr. Tyler Reimschisel of Vanderbilt University agreed.

"It's not discouraging, it's just early and on a small amount of people," he said. "This is definitely a novel and innovative treatment" but it's not clear if it's going to help.

Sangamo's president, Dr. Sandy Macrae, said a more potent version is being manufactured. Because the treatment seems safe, regulators recently agreed to allow teens with Hunter syndrome to join the study. The ultimate goal is to treat children at a young age, before the disease causes much damage. He said the company will wait for more results on current patients before deciding how to proceed.

"We've done something important" by achieving gene editing, he said. "There is a foundation to build on." □



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Big hats and simple elegance for Tom Ford at NY Fashion Week

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Ford says these tumultuous times pointed him in the opposite direction at New York Fashion Week on Wednesday night with a collection of gentle, non-aggressive elegance done in simple silhouettes, with some Los Angeles-inspired pops of color.

There was a distinctive '70s vibe in fake-fur fedoras with wide brims and fluffy oversized coats. For evening, he did long silk jersey body-skimming dresses adorned with chains of pale pink and lilac that framed shoulders and backs. The links were the only adornment.

Make no mistake: The classic Ford attention to detail was on display, as was a certain swagger. Some of the autumn-winter looks were lined and faced in silk with hand-done detailing for his usual touch of luxury. Since decamping from London to Los Angeles nearly two years ago, Ford yet again has embraced color, but this time around it came mostly in faded shades of pale blue, dove grey, plum, caramel, pink and rich browns and deep burgundy.

"My acceptance of cer-



Fashion from the Tom Ford collection is modeled during Fashion Week, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, in New York.

tain colors has changed," he said in an interview backstage after the show. Ford also had the 18th century's use of color on his mind, along with the touch of American designer Charles James. His clash of reds and pinks evoked the work of Yves St. Laurent, a house where he once served as creative director. On the opening day of women's week, Ford said today's political climate definitely influenced the

clothes.

"I feel agitated and upset, and I think clothing right now should be non-aggressive. And that sounds strange coming from me because often I have done somewhat aggressive, hard clothes. I wanted it to just be beautiful," he said. Ford certainly referenced his own design roots, having made a reputation at Gucci with pants and shirts (skinny, tailored trousers with tailored jackets), white

dresses in jersey and velvet suits.

"That's because that's who I am. That's what I like," Ford said. "At a certain point you get to a certain age and you say, well this is just my style. This is what I like. And this is what I should do."

Ford designs for specific, grown-up clients, ladies and men of luxury and elegance, with a little peacock thrown in. They may like all things fur and leather

but Ford stuck to his pledge to take care with those materials, sticking to food byproducts in shearing pieces and leather suits for men.

He remains torn by the fake fur versus real fur debate, detailing biodegradability rates and how many years each item remains in circulation before it's tossed.

"I'm quite torn by it," Ford said.

"Real fur biodegrades in six months. Fake fur pollutes the environment to manufacture and doesn't biodegrade for hundreds of years, so I don't know."

And what of those big hats, some in gold and silver? He doesn't do hats often.

"I've been spending more time in New York, secretly, and when you're in New York in the winter you actually think OK, it's raining or it's snowing or it's really cold, I can totally see a hat on the street," he said. "In today's world, they sort of don't make sense."

Just don't call these hats fit for a '70s pimp (Ford's soundtrack included the Bee Gees disco standard "Stayin' Alive"). He was going more for Diana Ross in the 1976 film "Mahogany" and Beyonce in "Dream Girls." □

'Killer Collective' is another page turner from Barry Eisler

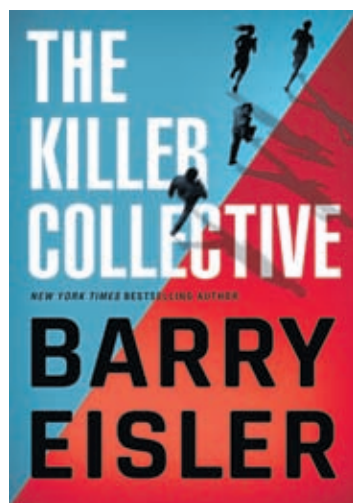
By BRUCE DESILVA

Associated Press

"The Killer Collective" (Thomas & Mercer), by Barry Eisler

At first blush, Barry Eisler's new thriller resembles one of those cartoonish action movies in which a handful of retired covert operators who don't trust each other are forced by circumstances to join forces for one last job.

Indeed, Eisler has assembled the most memorable characters from his 14 previous novels and given each major roles in "The Killer Collective." There's Livia Lone, a Seattle sex crimes investigator who would rather kill perverts than jail them. And John Rain, an



This cover image released by Thomas & Mercer shows "The Killer Collective" by Barry Eisler.

Associated Press

assassin who specializes in "natural causes." And Delilah, a treacherous Mossad agent. And Dox, a former

Marine sniper. And deadly black ops soldiers Ben Trevor and Daniel Larison. And the pair's old commander, Scott Horton. As the story begins, all but Lone have retired to quiet lives, but inevitably, trouble finds them. The action starts when someone who wants to remain unknown uses Horton to arrange a hit. He'll pay Rain a million dollars to kill a Seattle cop and two FBI agents if the hit man can make the deaths appear accidental.

After Rain turns down the job, an airliner carrying the FBI agents crashes into Lake Michigan. A team of assassins tries to bushwhack Lone and botches the job. And Horton and Rain barely

escape when the unknown bad guy tries to tie up loose ends. Lone and the FBI agents had been marked for death after uncovering a pedophile ring involving six Secret Service Agents. Such a scandal would be embarrassing, of course, but would someone really bring down an airliner to cover it up? Clearly, a more nefarious conspiracy involving higher-ups must be at work.

So Lone and Rain combine forces, and the "Killer Collective" is assembled to identify the conspirators and take them out.

Unlike movies such as "Red" (featuring Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Helen Mir-

ren), Eisler's tale is anything but cartoonish. In fact, the most compelling part of the story is the way the author portrays the complex relationships among his characters, from old romantic involvements to past betrayals that have them bristling with mutual distrust. All of that must be overcome if they are to work as a team. Eisler, a former covert operative for the CIA, knows this turf. And as usual with an Eisler novel, the plot is full of twists, the prose is muscular and the action unfolds at a torrid pace. The result is another page turner from one of the better thriller writers since James Grady published "Six Days of the Condor" in 1974. □

'What Men Want' is to avoid this blunder of a film

By **MARK KENNEDY**

Associated Press

Not to kick off this review with a spoiler alert, but after seeing "What Men Want" the answer to what men want is probably the same as what women want: Not to be ripped off by yet another dubious rom-com like this.

Taraji P. Henson tries a little too hard in a predictable, gender-switching remake of the Nancy Meyers-led 2000 romantic comedy "What Women Want." This time, a woman unlocks the power to read men's minds. The premise has potential but "What Men Want" is not funny enough, it's poorly edited and blunt when it could have been sharp.

Henson plays Ali, a hard-elbowing, high-powered sports agent who is bitter and brash — "OK, Bridezilla, take a Xanax," she tells one of her three best friends. To a co-worker, she says: "I'm going to need you to calm down, baby man-child." There's a weird '90s feel to the look and dialogue of



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Taraji P. Henson in a scene from "What Men Want."

this film, accentuated by a dusty soundtrack that features hits by TLC, Bell Biv DeVoe, 2 Live Crew, En Vogue and Salt-N-Pepa.

Ali is repeatedly passed up for promotion at her smarmy, all-male firm, which seems to leak testosterone in buckets. "You

don't connect well with men," she is told by the boss. To make partner, Ali vows to land the biggest sports target of the season: The No. 1 NBA draft pick. Along the way, she somehow bangs her head and then can hear the inner thoughts of any man nearby. That happens about 30 minutes in, which is an eternity of set-up, including a

flabby and pointless scene at a club.

And what are men secretly thinking about? According to this film, it is fears of being fat, feeling lame, worry about bodily functions, trying not to completely geek out about little things, a near-universal adoration of arena skyboxes, mundane stuff like lost keys, and the occasional horrific X-rated

bluntness. If you expected director Adam Shankman and writers Tina Gordon, Peter Huyck and Alex Gregory to find rich material to discuss male privilege in these #MeToo days, think again.

Men actually come off not so bad here. The women, though, end up worse: There's a scene with all of Ali's best friends wrestling during a horrific, weave-yanking cat fight at a church that's the nadir of filmmaking in 2019.

Henson does as best she can with this material, attempting Lucille Ball-level physical comedy. But she's laboring and often overshadowed by the one unpredictable spark in the film — provided by Erykah Badu. The singer-songwriter is in rare form here as an off-kilter fortune teller, shooting electricity in every scene, while small roles by Tracy Morgan and Pete Davidson are oddly flat. (If you're still bored, there's always playing Cameo Bingo: Look for appearances by sports figures Mark Cuban, Shaquille O'Neal, Lisa Leslie, Grant Hill and Karl-Anthony Towns.) □

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BOLSHOI BALLET
LA SYLPHIDE
SUNDAY FEB. 10: 1:00PM
SENSORY FRIENDLY PRESENTATION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT 1:00PM
GLASS
BRUCE WILLIS | SAMUEL L. JACKSON
MON-SUN 3:45 | 6:25 | 9:05
MISS BALA
GINA RODRIGUEZ | ANTHONY MACKIE
MON-FRI 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20
the upside
BRYAN CRANSTON | KEVIN HART
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10
BON BINI HOLLAND 2
JANDINO ASPORAT | LILIANA DE VRIES
MON-THU 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30
FRI 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SUN 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30
WHAT MEN WANT
TARAJI P. HENSON | WENDI MCLENDON-COVEY
MON-THU & SUN 8:40 | FRI-SAT 8:40 | 11:10
MON-THU 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10
FRI 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:10
SAT 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:10
SUN 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50
SPANISH SAT-SUN 1:00
KIP KING
LOUIS ASHBORNE SERKIS | PATRICK STEWART
MON-FRI 3:45 | 6:10
SAT-SUN 1:25 | 3:45 | 6:10

NEW THIS WEEK!
GLASS
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'The Shell Seekers' author Rosamunde Pilcher dies at 94

By **JILL LAWLESS**

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British novelist Rosamunde Pilcher, whose family saga "The Shell Seekers" sold millions of copies around the world, has died, her agent said Thursday. She was 94.

Pilcher's literary agency, Felicity Bryan Associates, said she died overnight at a hospital in Dundee, Scotland after a short illness. Her son Robin Pilcher told the Guardian newspaper his mother suffered a stroke Sunday following a bout of bronchitis.

Raised along England's wild southwest coast in the county of Cornwall — the setting for many of her books — Pilcher began her literary career in the 1940s, writing romance novels for



In this Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2005 file photo, best-selling novel writer Rosamunde Pilcher poses during a photo shooting in Munich, Germany.

the Mills & Boon imprint under the name Jane Fraser. The first novel published under her own name, "A Secret to Tell," came out in 1955. She scored an inter-

national best-seller in 1988, when she was 63, with "The Shell Seekers," which told the story of a bohemian family across three generations. □

Associated Press

Opera, orchestra team up to tell story of deadly 1913 flood

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

A new opera revisits the Great Flood of 1913, a Midwestern disaster that killed hundreds, left thousands homeless, and destroyed countless bridges and businesses, but that also paved the way for flood control innovations.

The dark subject matter is well-suited to opera, said Peggy Kriha Dye, general and artistic director of Opera Columbus.

"We're used to drama and death and dealing with those topics," she said. "Opera is the perfect form to do that because everything is heightened in this art form. It can handle heavy topics."

The inundation began on Easter weekend as usually heavy rain fell on ground either frozen or already saturated from snowmelt after a harsh winter, eventually flooding most rivers and streams across the region. The same weather system led to significant flooding in more than a dozen states, from Illinois through Connecticut, causing hundreds



In this 1913 file photo, rescuers carry a woman from the 1913 Dayton floodwaters in Dayton, Ohio.

Associated Press

of millions of dollars in damage. Many smaller Ohio River communities from Cairo, Illinois, to Wheeling, West Virginia, were all but destroyed.

The opera tells the story of the flood through a mystery involving a family affected by the destruction. It begins in Columbus after the flood has struck and follows family members through time to

the present day as the personal and public effects of the disaster are examined. While not everyone has experienced a flood, most people are familiar with tragedy of one kind or another, said Janet Chen, ProMusica's executive director. "There's an element within this work that I think people can take away on a personal level," she said.

"The Flood" is in English and just over an hour long. It was commissioned through a \$150,000 Arts Prize grant from the Columbus Foundation's Arts Innovation Fund. Some details about the flood and its aftermath: — The June 1912 eruption of the Novarupta volcano in Alaska — 30 times more powerful than the Mount St. Helens explosion —

pumped so much debris into the atmosphere that it led to a long, cold "volcanic winter." As a result, rainfall produced by the convergence of three extreme storm fronts in late March had nowhere to go, according to historian Conrade Hinds, author of "Columbus and the Great Flood of 1913."

— The catastrophe began with a series of deadly tornadoes in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa that killed more than 150 people on Easter Sunday and injured hundreds more before the storm system creating the tornadoes pushed eastward.

— State historians say that at least 467 people died in Ohio during the flood, and that more than 20,000 homes were destroyed.

A list of victims published in the Columbus Evening Dispatch included "Mr. and Mrs. George Eckert and seven children." In hard-hit Dayton, the amount of water that passed through the Great Miami River and its tributaries in three days equaled the amount of water that flows over Niagara Falls in a month. □

Keith Urban to play at NHL Stadium Series outdoor game

By STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

The NHL took the Stanley Cup to Keith Urban's studio last year, and now the country music star will be taking his talents outside to play a league event.

Urban will perform during the first intermission of the Stadium Series outdoor game in Philadelphia between the Penguins and Flyers on Feb. 23, the NHL announced Wednesday, making him the latest high-profile music act to play a league event following Weezer at the Winter Classic and Bebe Rexha at All-Star Weekend.

"We're thrilled that these artists are now considering our events to be of the highest level and incredible exposure for them," NHL chief content officer



In this Nov. 14, 2018, file photo, Country music star Keith Urban performs at the 52nd annual CMA Awards at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Steve Mayer said. "For us as the NHL, we're just looking for the biggest artists we can find, and we think that Keith Urban transcends all

of that."

Urban has no connection to the Flyers or Penguins, but he and wife Nicole Kidman are Nashville Preda-

tors fans, and he sang the national anthem during their 2017 playoff run. Urban and Kidman got to spend some time with the Cup in April when the NHL had it in Nashville during the playoffs, one step toward getting them more involved with hockey.

"Keith really has fallen in love with the game, fallen in love with hockey, thinks this is a really cool opportunity and wants to work with us more and more promoting the game," Mayer said. Years ago, the NHL was the subject of some jokes for booking Billy Idol and other artists past their prime for big events. When Mayer joined the NHL in 2015, he wanted to up the entertainment value with the artists playing for big hockey audiences.

One way to do that was expanding the kinds of acts the league was looking for. "We've also opened up our musical entertainment to other genres other than classic rock," Mayer said. "We do know that our fans love classic rock and we're not shying away from it, but we also are looking to bring in more casual fans and going to what they love in the music world."

The other goal is to get music fans into hockey, with Mayer saying, "If we get some Keith Urban fans to watch the game in Philadelphia and they would've normally not watched the game, we win."

Canadian band Glorious Sons will play pregame festivities outside Lincoln Financial Field and then during the second intermission. □

Racist history of blackface began in the 1830s

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A racist photo on Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's yearbook page and a subsequent admission from his attorney general that he wore blackface in 1980 has roiled Virginia politics. The photo in the 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook shows someone in blackface standing next to a person in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe. Attorney General Mark Herring said Wednesday that he wore brown makeup to look like a black rapper during a party as an undergraduate at the University of Virginia. The revelations offer the latest examples of prominent white people facing harsh criticism for wearing blackface.

Here's a look at the practice and its history:

BLACKFACE ORIGINS

Blackface minstrelsy is considered by some to be the first uniquely American form of entertainment.

White men would darken their faces to create caricatures of black people, including large mouths, lips and eyes, woolly hair and coal-black skin. The performances would stereotype black men and women as ignorant, hypersexual, superstitious, lazy people who were prone to thievery and cowardice.

The practice took hold in New York City in the 1830s and became immensely popular among post-Civil War whites. In fact, the Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation in the South took their name from a character played by blackface performer Thomas Dartmouth Rice. He said his act "Jump, Jim Crow" (or "Jumping Jim Crow") was inspired by a slave he saw.

CONTROVERIAL FROM THE START

Blackface performances were condemned as offensive from the beginning.

In 1848, after watching a blackface act, abolitionist Fredrick Douglass called the performers "the filthy scum of white society" in



In this Nov. 18, 2017, file photo, Black Petes and police officers leave after the arrival of Sinterklaas, or Saint Nicholas in Dokkum, northern Netherlands.

The North Star newspaper. Blackface performers, he said, "have stolen from us a complexion denied to them by nature ... to make money and pander to the corrupt taste of their white fellow-citizens."

Civil rights organizations have publicly condemned blackface for decades, saying it dehumanizes blacks by introducing and reinforcing racial stereo-

types.

A letter to the editor in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from 1946 called a blackface performance "grotesque" and said it attacked "by ridicule and cheap buffoonery the self-respect of every American Negro." The letter was written by a state lawmaker, the Inter-Racial Action Council, the Inter-Denominational Ministers Alliance



This 1920s image shows comedian Eddie Cantor wearing blackface while performing "If You Knew Susie."

Associated Press

Associated Press and the publisher of The Pittsburgh Courier.

NORTHAM ISN'T THE FIRST

Other white politicians and celebrities have faced criticism for blackface performances.

Comedian Billy Crystal was criticized in 2012 for impersonating Sammy Davis Jr. in blackface during his opening montage at the Oscars, a repeat of his oft-performed skit from "Saturday Night Live" from the 1980s. Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan had to apologize in 2000 for a picture of him and his brothers singing in a blackface quartet in 1960 that came up during his run for U.S. Senate in 1999. He died in a plane crash the next year, but won the Senate seat anyway.

Actor Ted Danson was accused of being racist and tasteless for performing a skit in blackface, using the N-word and joking about his sex life with then-girlfriend Whoopi Goldberg, who is black, at Goldberg's Friars Club roast in 1993.

Dozens of other whites, including college fraternities and sororities, public officials and law enforcement officers, have also been criticized for blackface incidents.

Florida Secretary of State Mike Ertel resigned last month after a newspaper obtained photos of him in

blackface and wearing earrings, a New Orleans Saints bandanna and fake breasts under a purple T-shirt that said "Katrina Victim." The photos were taken two months after the deadly storm ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005, killing more than a thousand people.

AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN BLACKFACE

Early black actors, singers and vaudevillians were forced to don blackface as well if they wished to perform for more lucrative white audiences.

For example, William Henry "Master Juba" Lane is considered the single most influential performer in 19th century dance and is credited with inventing tap. It was only after his fame reached international proportions that he was allowed to tour with an all-white minstrel troupe and to perform without blackface. One of the more disastrous critiques of blackface was from black actor Ben Vereen at President Ronald Reagan's inauguration. Vereen's intent was a tribute to legendary black vaudevillian Bert Williams, who was forced to wear blackface to stay employed. Vereen first danced and sang "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee" before a cheering GOP audience, along with the president and first lady Nancy Reagan. He then stripped the blackface off while singing "Nobody (I ain't never got nothin' from nobody, no time)" to show the pain of blackface and the exploitation of African-Americans.

But ABC omitted the second part of Vereen's performance when airing it, showing only the minstrelsy segment. Vereen, who at the time was one of the nation's top black actors, faced an immediate backlash from African-American fans for what they saw as buffoonery.

Vereen has said he was promised that both parts would be shown and that he was "sabotaged by the network." □